

Breathers in a locally resonant granular chain with precompression

Lifeng Liu¹, Guillaume James², Panayotis Kevrekidis^{3,4}, and Anna Vainchtein^{1,5}

¹*Department of Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, USA*

²*INRIA Grenoble - Rhône-Alpes, Bipop Team-Project, Inovallée, 655 Avenue de l'Europe, 38334 Saint Ismier Cedex, France.*

³*Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts 01003, USA*

⁴*Theoretical Division and Center for Nonlinear Studies, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, USA*

⁵*Corresponding author: aav4@pitt.edu (email), 412 624 8309 (phone), 412 624 8397 (fax)*

March 22, 2016

Abstract

We study a locally resonant granular material in the form of a precompressed Hertzian chain with linear internal resonators. Using an asymptotic reduction, we derive an effective nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) modulation equation. This, in turn, leads us to provide analytical evidence, subsequently corroborated numerically, for the existence of two distinct types of discrete breathers related to acoustic or optical modes: (a) traveling bright breathers with a strain profile exponentially vanishing at infinity and (b) stationary and traveling dark breathers, exponentially localized, time-periodic states mounted on top of a non-vanishing background. The stability and bifurcation structure of numerically computed exact stationary dark breathers is also examined. Stationary bright breathers cannot be identified using the NLS equation, which is defocusing at the upper edges of the phonon bands and becomes linear at the lower edge of the optical band.

Keywords: locally resonant granular material; precompression; discrete breather; modulation equation; stability

1 Introduction

Granular crystals are tightly packed arrays of solid particles that deform elastically upon contact via nonlinear Hertzian interactions [1–3]. The dynamics of these systems ranges

from *weakly nonlinear*, when the initial overlap of the neighboring particles due to the static precompression is much larger than their relative displacement, to the *strongly nonlinear* regime characterized by relatively small or zero precompression. This provides an ideal setting for exploring nonlinear waves, including traveling [1–3] and shock waves [4, 5].

A particularly interesting class of nonlinear excitations exhibited by these materials are the so-called *discrete breathers* [6–14], i.e., time-periodic and exponentially localized in space oscillations that are also encountered in a wide variety of other nonlinear systems (see [15, 16] and references therein). There are two distinct types of breathers. *Bright breathers* have a profile (of strain in the case of granular systems) exponentially decaying to zero at infinity and are known to exist in granular materials with defects [11, 13], heterogeneous granular chains such as dimers or trimers [6, 12, 14] and Hertzian chains with a harmonic onsite potential modeling Newton’s cradle or granular chains embedded in a matrix [9, 10, 17]. *Dark breathers*, on the other hand, are spatially modulated standing waves with amplitude that is constant at infinity and vanishes at the center. They have been recently identified and analyzed in a homogeneous granular chain with precompression [7], and their existence was experimentally verified in damped, driven granular chains in [8].

In this work we consider both types of discrete breathers in a locally resonant granular chain characterized by very rich nonlinear dynamics [18, 19]. This novel granular metamaterial has tunable band gaps and can be potentially used in engineering applications involving shock absorption and vibration mitigation. The system consists of a regular granular chain with additional degrees of freedom due to attached linear resonators. Its recent experimental implementations include mass-in-mass granular chains with internal linear resonators placed inside the primary beads [20], mass-with-mass chains with external ring resonators attached to the beads [21] (see also [22]) and woodpile phononic crystals consisting of vertically stacked slender cylindrical rods in orthogonal contact [23]. Under certain assumptions, each of these experimental setups can be modeled by a Hertzian chain with a secondary mass attached to each primary bead by a linearly elastic spring, with the ratio of the secondary and primary masses being the main control parameter. In a recent work [24], we studied the strongly nonlinear dynamics of this system in the absence of precompression. Through a combination of asymptotic analysis and numerical computations, we provided evidence for the existence of exact dark breathers in the locally resonant granular chain and investigated their stability and bifurcation structure. In addition, we studied small-amplitude periodic traveling waves and identified the conditions under which the system has long-lived (but not exact) bright breathers.

Here we turn our attention to the locally resonant granular chain under nonzero precompression. In the non-resonant limit (regular granular chain, zero mass ratio), such a system belongs to the general class of Fermi-Pasta-Ulam (FPU) lattice models (e.g. see [25–35] and references therein), with a dispersion relation for plane wave solutions of the linearized problem possessing only acoustic spectrum. At finite mass ratio, the dispersion relation has both acoustic and optical branches. In this respect the problem is somewhat reminiscent of diatomic FPU chains, although the optical branch is quite different in our case. In the small-amplitude limit the dynamics of the system is weakly nonlinear. This dynamical regime has been well studied for the FPU problem, as has its generalized version with an additional onsite potential [16, 27–29, 31–34, 36, 37]. In particular, the established conditions for bifurcation of discrete breathers for this class of problems [16, 32, 33] rule out the existence of

bright breathers in the homogeneous non-resonant granular chain under precompression, the limiting case of our problem when the mass ratio is zero and the dispersion relation has only an acoustic branch. In this case, dark breathers were identified in [7] as the *only* possible type of intrinsically localized mode. The *defocusing* nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLS), which has tanh-type solutions, is derived in [7] as the modulation equation for waves with frequencies near the edge of the linear acoustic spectrum and used to construct initial conditions for numerical computation and analysis of the dark breathers. In another limiting case, when the mass ratio goes to infinity and the secondary masses have zero initial conditions, the system approaches the Newton's cradle model with precompression, a problem with a purely optical dispersion relation. In this case, traveling bright breathers were investigated in [10] via the analysis of the corresponding *focusing* NLS, which admits sech-type solutions.

To explore the weakly nonlinear dynamics at finite mass ratio, we use a multiscale asymptotic method (see [31, 36, 37] and references therein) and derive the classical NLS equation, yielding closed-form solutions of sech-type and tanh-type in the focusing and defocusing cases, respectively. In particular, we show that parameters (mass ratio and precompression) can modify the number of focusing regions in the acoustic and optical bands, a phenomenon which does not occur in classical homogeneous and diatomic granular chains [7, 14]. This property is particularly interesting for applications because precompression is easy to tune experimentally. Another special feature of the resonant granular chain is that the cubic NLS coefficient vanishes at the zero wavenumber corresponding to the lower edge of the optical band. Since the NLS equation is defocusing at the upper edges of the optical and acoustic bands, the NLS equation cannot be used to approximate stationary bright breathers in the present context.

Having identified focusing and defocusing parameter regimes, we first investigate how well the focusing NLS equation approximates moving bright breather solutions of the original system. Provided that certain resonances are avoided, we find that the focusing NLS equation successfully approximates small-amplitude optical bright breathers at various mass ratios and wave numbers. This very good correspondence is established by integrating the lattice differential equation starting from the NLS approximation, which leads to robust motion of the bright breather over long times. We also demonstrate that bright breathers can be generated in the resonant granular chain initially at rest, and driven from a boundary at a frequency within the focusing region of the optical band (see [6, 17] for related works). In addition, we analyze discrepancies between numerical solutions and NLS approximations which can be observed at some other wave numbers for the optical branch and in the acoustic case. In particular, in some cases we observe formation and robust propagation of *nanoptera*, bright breathers that emit small-amplitude oscillations behind them.

Following the approach in [7], we also consider the defocusing NLS at the edges of both optical and acoustic branches that correspond to wave number equal to π , and use the static solutions of the modulation equation to construct the approximate standing dark breather solutions. A continuation procedure based on a Newton-type method with initial conditions built from the approximation ansatz is employed to compute numerically exact stationary dark breathers for a wide range of frequencies and at different mass ratios. Interestingly, the resulting branches of solutions also include large-amplitude dark breathers, whose dynamics is *strongly nonlinear*.

We examine numerically the stability of the exact dark breathers of both weakly and

strongly nonlinear types, using both a Floquet analysis and direct numerical simulations. Our results suggest that small-amplitude weakly nonlinear dark breather solutions with frequencies close to the linear frequencies of the system are stable, in analogy to what was found for the homogeneous granular chain in [7]. As the amplitude of the dark breather solution becomes relatively large compared to the amount of precompression, the solution starts to exhibit a very strong modulational instability of the background, eventually leading to its complete destruction and the emergence of chaotic dynamics. However, when a real instability of the solution is dominant in the Floquet spectrum, it may give rise to steady propagation of a dark breather at large enough time. Interestingly, we observe that such types of propagating dark breathers can also form spontaneously, as a result of the instability of certain acoustic periodic traveling waves. We also show that the mass ratio plays a substantial role in oscillatory instabilities of the background of the dark breathers. In contrast, the value of the mass ratio has a less significant effect on real instability modes for both the strongly and weakly nonlinear solutions.

The paper is organized as follows. Sec. 2 introduces the model and the dispersion relation for plane waves is derived. In Sec. 3, we derive the modulation equation of NLS type (with more technical details included in the Appendix), recall basic features of the focusing and defocusing regimes of NLS, and localize these different regimes in the parameter space of the original lattice. In Sec. 4 we investigate the existence of moving bright breathers for the original system at different mass ratios, and test the validity of the NLS approximation. In Sec. 5 we analyze the existence and stability of stationary dark breathers and discuss the excitation of traveling dark breathers by different means. Concluding remarks can be found in Sec. 6.

2 The model

We consider a granular chain of identical beads of mass m_1 precompressed by the static load F_0 . To obtain a locally resonant granular chain, we attach a secondary mass m_2 attached to each primary bead via a linear spring of stiffness $K > 0$. The primary and secondary masses are constrained to move in the horizontal direction with displacements $\tilde{u}_n(\tilde{t})$ and $\tilde{v}_n(\tilde{t})$, respectively. In what follows, we assume that the deformation of the neighboring primary masses is confined to a sufficiently small region near the contact point and varies slowly enough on the time scale of interest. We also assume that the effects of plasticity and dissipation can be neglected. Under these assumptions, the interaction of the n th and $(n+1)$ th primary beads is governed by the static Hertzian contact law [1–3] corresponding to the force $F = \mathcal{A}(\tilde{\delta}_0 + \tilde{u}_n - \tilde{u}_{n+1})_+^\alpha$, where $(x)_+ = \max\{x, 0\}$, $\mathcal{A} > 0$ is the Hertzian constant determined by material properties of the beads and the radius of the contact curvature, α is the Hertzian nonlinear exponent which is equal to $3/2$ for spherical beads, $\tilde{\delta}_0 = (F_0/\mathcal{A})^{1/\alpha}$ is the equilibrium overlap of the adjacent primary masses due to the precompression. The equations of motion are then given by

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 \frac{d^2 \tilde{u}_n}{d\tilde{t}^2} &= \mathcal{A}(\tilde{\delta}_0 + \tilde{u}_{n-1} - \tilde{u}_n)_+^\alpha - \mathcal{A}(\tilde{\delta}_0 + \tilde{u}_n - \tilde{u}_{n+1})_+^\alpha - K(\tilde{u}_n - \tilde{v}_n), \\ m_2 \frac{d^2 \tilde{v}_n}{d\tilde{t}^2} &= K(\tilde{u}_n - \tilde{v}_n). \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Let R be a given characteristic length scale. We introduce dimensionless variables

$$u_n = \frac{\tilde{u}_n}{R}, \quad v_n = \frac{\tilde{v}_n}{R}, \quad t = \tilde{t} \sqrt{\frac{R^{\alpha-1} \mathcal{A}}{m_1}},$$

as well as three dimensionless parameters

$$\rho = \frac{m_2}{m_1}, \quad \kappa = \frac{K}{\mathcal{A} R^{\alpha-1}}, \quad \delta_0 = \frac{\tilde{\delta}_0}{R},$$

where ρ is the ratio of two masses and δ_0 the dimensionless overlap due to precompression. When R corresponds to the radius of spherical primary beads, the parameter κ measures the relative strength of the linearly elastic spring and Hertzian interactions for compressions at the scale of R . Another relevant rescaling consists in fixing $R = (K/\mathcal{A})^{1/(\alpha-1)}$, so that $\kappa = 1$.

Rewriting the system (1) in terms of the dimensionless variables and parameters, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{u}_n &= V'(\delta^+ u_n) - V'(\delta^- u_n) - \kappa(u_n - v_n) \\ \rho \ddot{v}_n &= \kappa(u_n - v_n), \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where \ddot{u}_n and \ddot{v}_n are the accelerations of the primary and secondary masses, respectively, $\delta^+ u_n = u_{n+1} - u_n$ and $\delta^- u_n = u_n - u_{n-1}$ denote the shift operators, and $V(r)$ is the interaction potential in the form

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{\alpha+1}(\delta_0 - r)_+^{\alpha+1} + \delta_0^\alpha r - \frac{1}{\alpha+1} \delta_0^{\alpha+1} \tag{3}$$

that satisfies $V(0) = V'(0) = 0$. In the weakly nonlinear regime when $r \ll \delta_0$, it is relevant to consider the Taylor expansion

$$V(r) = K_2 \frac{r^2}{2} + K_3 \frac{r^3}{3} + K_4 \frac{r^4}{4} + O(|r|^5), \tag{4}$$

where $K_2 = \alpha \delta_0^{\alpha-1}$, $K_3 = -\frac{1}{2} \alpha (\alpha-1) \delta_0^{\alpha-2}$ and $K_4 = \frac{1}{6} \alpha (\alpha-1)(\alpha-2) \delta_0^{\alpha-3}$. Linearizing the system (2) about the equilibrium state, we obtain

$$\ddot{u}_n = K_2(u_{n+1} - 2u_n + u_{n-1}) - \kappa(u_n - v_n), \quad \rho \ddot{v}_n = -\kappa(v_n - u_n). \tag{5}$$

The linear system has nontrivial plane wave solutions in the form

$$u_n(t) = A e^{i(n\theta - \omega t)}, \quad v_n(t) = B e^{i(n\theta - \omega t)}$$

with wave number $\theta \in (-\pi, \pi]$, frequency ω and amplitudes A and B , provided that the matrix

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \omega^2 - D - \kappa & \kappa \\ \kappa/\rho & \omega^2 - \kappa/\rho \end{pmatrix} \tag{6}$$

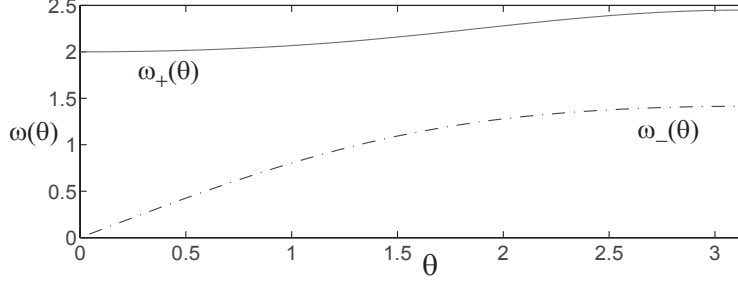


Figure 1: The optical (solid) and acoustic (dashed) branches of the dispersion relation (7). Due to the even symmetry about $\theta = 0$, only $[0, \pi]$ interval is shown. Here $\delta_0 = 4/9$, $\kappa = 1$ and $\rho = 1/3$.

with $D = D(\theta) = 4K_2 \sin^2(\theta/2)$ has a vanishing determinant. This yields the dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = \omega_{\pm}^2(\theta) = \frac{D + \kappa + \kappa/\rho \pm \sqrt{(D + \kappa + \kappa/\rho)^2 - 4D\kappa/\rho}}{2}. \quad (7)$$

The relation has two branches: optical, $\omega_+(\theta)$, and acoustic, $\omega_-(\theta)$, as shown in Fig. 1. One can show that $\omega_+(\theta)$ and $\omega_-(\theta)$ are increasing functions of θ in $[0, \pi]$ and that $\omega_-(\pi) < \omega_+(0)$, implying the existence of a gap between the two branches.

Note that in the limit $\rho \rightarrow 0$, the model reduces to the one for a regular (non-resonant) homogeneous granular chain with precompression, which is governed by [3]

$$\ddot{u}_n = (\delta_0 + u_{n-1} - u_n)_+^\alpha - (\delta_0 + u_n - u_{n+1})_+^\alpha. \quad (8)$$

In this case the dispersion relation for the linearized problem only has the acoustic branch

$$\omega^2(\theta) = 4K_2 \sin^2(\theta/2). \quad (9)$$

In the opposite limit of $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ and for zero initial conditions for $v_n(t)$, the system approaches a precompressed granular chain with quadratic onsite potential, i.e., a Newton's cradle model with precompression [10], described by

$$\ddot{u}_n + \kappa u_n = (\delta_0 + u_{n-1} - u_n)_+^\alpha - (\delta_0 + u_n - u_{n+1})_+^\alpha. \quad (10)$$

In this limit, the dispersion relation is purely optical and given by

$$\omega^2(\theta) = 4K_2 \sin^2(\theta/2) + \kappa. \quad (11)$$

3 Nonlinear Schrödinger limit

3.1 Derivation of the nonlinear Schrödinger equation

To study the weakly nonlinear dynamics of the locally resonant chain, we begin by deriving the modulation equations for the plane-wave mode $E(t, n) := e^{i(n\theta - \omega t)}$, with $\theta \in (-\pi, \pi]$ and $\omega = \omega_+$ or ω_- defined in (7). Using a small parameter $\varepsilon > 0$, we introduce the slow time $\tau = \varepsilon^2 t$ and the macroscopic traveling wave coordinate $\xi = \varepsilon(n - ct)$, where $c = c_{\pm} := \omega'_{\pm}(\theta)$

is the group velocity. We seek solutions of (2) in the form of fast oscillating, small-amplitude patterns modulated by envelopes that vary slowly in space and time:

$$\begin{aligned} u_n(t) &= u_n^A(t) + O(\varepsilon^2) = \varepsilon\{A_{1,0}(\tau, \xi) + A_{1,1}(\tau, \xi)E(t, n) + c.c.\} + O(\varepsilon^2) \\ v_n(t) &= v_n^B(t) + O(\varepsilon^2) = \varepsilon\{B_{1,0}(\tau, \xi) + B_{1,1}(\tau, \xi)E(t, n) + c.c.\} + O(\varepsilon^2), \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where $c.c.$ denotes complex conjugate. More precisely, following [36, 37] (see also [31]), we substitute the multiple-scale ansatz

$$u_n(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_1} \varepsilon^k \sum_{j=-k}^k A_{k,j}(\tau, \xi) E^j(t, n), \quad v_n(t) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}_1} \varepsilon^k \sum_{j=-k}^k B_{k,j}(\tau, \xi) E^j(t, n), \quad (13)$$

where \mathbb{N}_1 is the set of natural numbers $k \in \mathbb{N}, k \geq 1$, $A_{k,j}, B_{k,j} \in \mathbb{C}$, $A_{k,-j} = \bar{A}_{k,j}$ and $B_{k,-j} = \bar{B}_{k,j}$, into (2). As shown in Appendix A, this leads to the coupled modulation equations

$$i\partial_\tau A_{1,1} + \beta\partial_\xi A_{1,0}A_{1,1} + \frac{1}{2}\omega''\partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} - h|A_{1,1}|^2 A_{1,1} = 0, \quad (14)$$

$$[c^2(1 + \rho) - K_2]\partial_\xi^2 A_{1,0} = 8K_3 \sin^2(\theta/2)\bar{A}_{1,1}\partial_\xi A_{1,1} + c.c. \quad (15)$$

and the identities

$$B_{1,0} = A_{1,0}, \quad B_{1,1} = \frac{\kappa}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} A_{1,1} \quad (16)$$

(one can check that $\kappa - \rho\omega_\pm^2 \neq 0$). In equations (14)-(15), we assume two *non-resonance conditions*,

$$(4\omega^2 - 4K_2 \sin^2 \theta - \kappa)(\kappa - 4\omega^2 \rho) + \kappa^2 \neq 0 \quad (17)$$

and

$$c^2(1 + \rho) - K_2 \neq 0, \quad (18)$$

and set

$$\beta = -4K_3 \sin^2(\theta/2)\gamma, \quad \omega'' = \left\{ K_2 \cos \theta - c^2 \left[1 - \frac{3\omega^2 \rho^2 \kappa^2 + \rho \kappa^3}{(\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^3} \right] \right\} \gamma \quad (19)$$

and

$$h = \left\{ \frac{16K_3^2 \sin^2 \theta (1 - \cos \theta)^2 (\kappa - 4\omega^2 \rho)}{(4\omega^2 - 4K_2 \sin^2 \theta - \kappa)(\kappa - 4\omega^2 \rho) + \kappa^2} + 6K_4 (1 - \cos \theta)^2 \right\} \gamma, \quad (20)$$

where

$$\gamma = \frac{(\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^2}{\omega[\rho\kappa^2 + (\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^2]}. \quad (21)$$

Note that h is non-singular when (17) holds. Observe also that (15) can be rewritten as

$$\partial_\xi^2 A_{1,0} = \lambda \partial_\xi |A_{1,1}|^2, \quad (22)$$

where

$$\lambda = \frac{8K_3 \sin^2(\theta/2)}{c^2(1+\rho) - K_2} \quad (23)$$

is well-defined under (18). Integrating both sides of (22) with respect to ξ yields

$$\partial_\xi A_{1,0} = \lambda |A_{1,1}|^2 + f(\tau), \quad (24)$$

where f is an arbitrary real-valued function. Substituting $\partial_\xi A_{1,0}$ into (14) then gives

$$i\partial_\tau A_{1,1} + \beta f(\tau) A_{1,1} + \frac{1}{2}\omega'' \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} + (\lambda\beta - h)|A_{1,1}|^2 A_{1,1} = 0. \quad (25)$$

Let

$$A(\xi, \tau) = A_{1,1}(\xi, \tau) e^{-i\beta F(\tau)}, \quad (26)$$

where $F(\tau)$ is the antiderivative of $f(\tau)$. From (25) it then follows that $A(\xi, \tau)$ satisfies the classical time-dependent nonlinear Schrödinger (NLS) equation

$$i\partial_\tau A + \frac{1}{2}\omega'' \partial_\xi^2 A - \tilde{h}|A|^2 A = 0, \quad (27)$$

where we set

$$\tilde{h} = h - \lambda\beta. \quad (28)$$

Solutions of (27) provide approximate solutions to the original lattice system (2) through identities (12), (26), (24) and (16).

3.2 Bright and dark breathers solutions

Equation (27) has solutions in the form

$$A(\xi, \tau) = \tilde{A}(\xi) e^{i\mu\tau}, \quad (29)$$

where $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\tilde{A}(\xi)$ is a real-valued function satisfying the stationary NLS equation

$$-\mu\tilde{A} + \frac{1}{2}\omega'' \partial_\xi^2 \tilde{A} - \tilde{h}\tilde{A}^3 = 0. \quad (30)$$

The *focusing case* of the NLS equation (27) occurs for $\omega''\tilde{h} < 0$. In this case (30) admits sech-type solution

$$\tilde{A}(\xi) = \sqrt{\frac{-2\mu}{\tilde{h}}} \operatorname{sech}\left(\sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{\omega''\tilde{h}}} \xi\right) \quad (31)$$

for μ such that $\mu\omega'' > 0$ and $\mu\tilde{h} < 0$. The solutions of (27) given by (31)-(29) are denoted as *bright breather solutions*. Using (26) and (29), we then obtain

$$A_{1,1}(\xi, \tau) = \sqrt{\frac{-2\mu}{\tilde{h}}} \operatorname{sech}\left(\sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{\omega''\tilde{h}}} \xi\right) e^{i[\mu\tau + \beta F(\tau)]}, \quad (32)$$

and integrating (24) yields

$$A_{1,0}(\xi, \tau) = \frac{\lambda\sqrt{2\omega''\mu}}{|\tilde{h}|} \tanh\left(\sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{\omega''}}\xi\right) + f(\tau)\xi + C(\tau). \quad (33)$$

In the focusing case, the spatially homogeneous solutions $A_{\theta,r}(\tau) = r e^{-i\tilde{h}r^2\tau}$ of (27) are unstable, with typical perturbations giving rise to localized waves close to bright breathers [38].

On the other hand, when $\omega''\tilde{h} > 0$, equation (27) becomes *defocusing*, and (30) has a tanh-type solution

$$\tilde{A}(\xi) = \sqrt{\frac{-\mu}{\tilde{h}}} \tanh\left(\sqrt{\frac{-\mu}{\omega''}}\xi\right) \quad (34)$$

for μ satisfying $\mu\omega'' < 0$ and $\mu\tilde{h} < 0$. Expressions (34)-(29) define *dark breather solutions* of (27). We then have

$$A_{1,1}(\xi, \tau) = \sqrt{\frac{-\mu}{\tilde{h}}} \tanh\left(\sqrt{\frac{-\mu}{\omega''}}\xi\right) e^{i[\mu\tau + \beta F(\tau)]}. \quad (35)$$

Integrating (24), we obtain

$$A_{1,0}(\xi, \tau) = -\frac{\lambda\sqrt{-\omega''\mu}}{|\tilde{h}|} \tanh\left(\sqrt{\frac{-\mu}{\omega''}}\xi\right) + \left(f(\tau) - \frac{\lambda\mu}{\tilde{h}}\right)\xi + C(\tau). \quad (36)$$

3.3 Focusing and defocusing parameter regimes

Representative plots of $\text{sign}(\omega''\tilde{h})$ as a function of θ and ρ for optical and acoustic branches are shown in Fig. 2, where we vary ρ but fix the other parameters at the same values as in Fig. 1 ($\kappa = 1$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$ and $\alpha = 3/2$). Interestingly, it turns out that the number of focusing wavenumber intervals can change when varying ρ , both for optical and acoustic modes. In particular, the topology of focusing regions is more complex for optical modes, as shown in the left panel of Fig. 2.

Let us now study the origin of this phenomenon. From (19), (20), (23) and (28), one can see that $\omega''\tilde{h}$ can change sign when $\omega'' = 0$, $\tilde{h} = 0$ or when \tilde{h} has a singularity which occurs when either of the two non-resonance conditions, (17) and (18), is violated for $\theta \in (0, \pi)$.

For the optical branch of the dispersion relation, (17) always holds for the parameters we consider in Fig. 2, but the other non-resonance condition, (18), breaks down at some wave numbers for sufficiently large ρ (solid curve in the left plot of Fig. 2). In this case the sign of $\omega''_+\tilde{h}_+$ also changes for any $\rho > 0$ at the inflection point of the dispersion relation ($\omega''_+ = 0$, dashed curve) and, for large enough ρ , when the numerator of \tilde{h} in (28) vanishes. Thus, for sufficiently small ρ , $0 < \rho < 2.356$, we have the focusing regime (shaded in Fig. 2) for $\theta < \theta_c$, where $\omega''_+(\theta_c) = 0$, and the defocusing NLS otherwise. For larger ρ , focusing and defocusing regimes alternate, due to breakdown of (18), the inflection point, and, for $\rho \gtrsim 15.335$, $\tilde{h} = 0$. Interestingly, the focusing and defocusing regions “flip” at $\rho \approx 2.356$ and $\rho \approx 22.298$, where

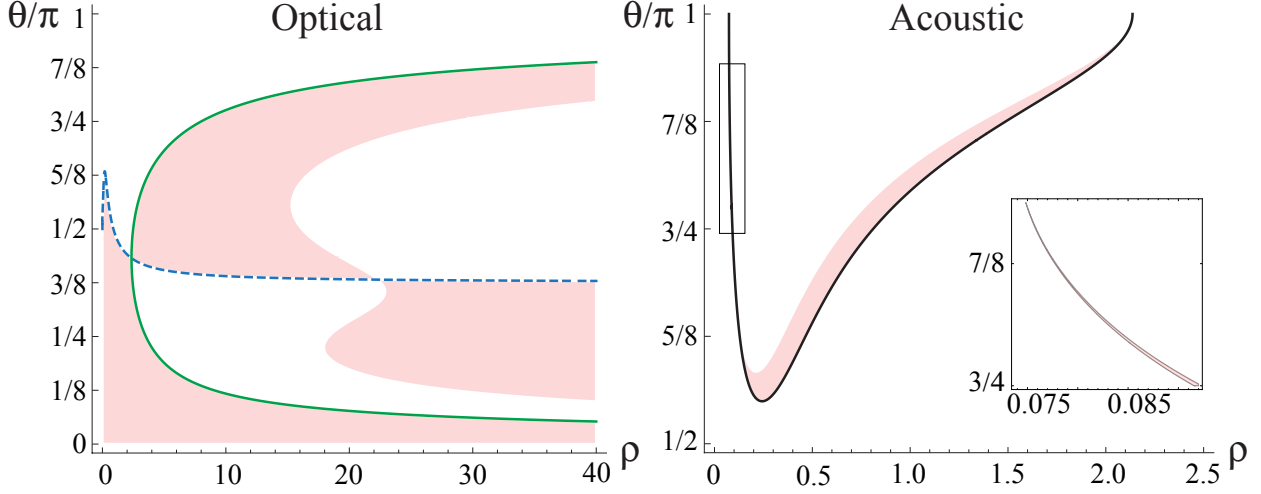


Figure 2: Plots of $\text{sign}(\omega'' \tilde{h})$ for optical (left) and acoustic (right) branches. The focusing region is shaded in pink (gray in the black and white version). Its boundaries for the optical case include $\omega''_+ = 0$ (blue dashed line) and the curve along which the second non-resonance condition (18) is violated (green solid line). Black solid line in the acoustic case (right plot) corresponds to the curve along which the first non-resonance condition (17) breaks down. The remaining boundaries separating focusing (pink/gray) and defocusing (white) regions corresponds to $\tilde{h} = 0$. Inset zooms in on the region inside the rectangle. Here $\alpha = 3/2$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$, $\kappa = 1$.

the boundary curves intersect, with focusing regime below the $\omega''_+ = 0$ curve at small ρ , above it for a range of wave numbers at intermediate mass ratios and below the curve again for a θ -range at larger ρ .

We now turn to $\text{sign}(\omega'' \tilde{h}_-)$ and examine the acoustic dispersion branch shown in the right plot of Fig. 2. One can show that in this case the curvature of the dispersion curve is always negative, $\omega''_-(\theta) < 0$, for $\theta \in (0, \pi]$, yielding $0 \leq c_- = \omega'_-(\theta) < \omega'_-(0) = \sqrt{K_2/(1+\rho)}$. As a result, the second non-resonance condition (18) always holds for the acoustic branch at nonzero wave numbers. However, the first non-resonance condition breaks along the solid curve, changing the sign of \tilde{h}_- from negative to positive, and hence the sign of $\omega'' \tilde{h}_-$ from positive to negative, at sufficiently large $\theta < \pi$ in the interval of mass ratios $0.074 < \rho < 2.137$. For each ρ in this interval, $\text{sign}(\omega'' \tilde{h}_-)$ changes again to positive (defocusing regime) at slightly larger θ due to $\tilde{h} = 0$. This yields a very narrow shaded focusing region, with the lower boundary for $\theta < \pi$ coinciding with the solid curve where (18) is violated. It should be noted that although this singularity curve includes points where $\theta = \pi$, the focusing region approaches this value at its ends but does not include it because $h(\theta)$ in (20), and therefore $\tilde{h}(\theta)$ in (28), does not have a singularity at $\theta = \pi$. Instead, as we approach each of the two end points of the focusing region where $\theta \rightarrow \pi$, the values of θ where \tilde{h}_- is singular and where it vanishes for given ρ both approach π , so that at $\theta = \pi$ we have the defocusing case, $\tilde{h}_-(\pi)\omega''_-(\pi) > 0$ for $\rho > 0$. The focusing region is particularly narrow at smaller mass ratios, $\rho \gtrsim 0.074$ (see the inset in Fig. 2). Outside this region one has the defocusing regime. This includes $0 < \rho < 0.074$, in agreement with the non-resonant chain studied in [7] ($\rho = 0$), where only the defocusing case is possible.

To further illustrate these results, we show some plots of group velocity c , curvature ω''

and \tilde{h} as functions of the wave number θ in Fig. 3. One can see that at $\rho = 1/3$ the optical

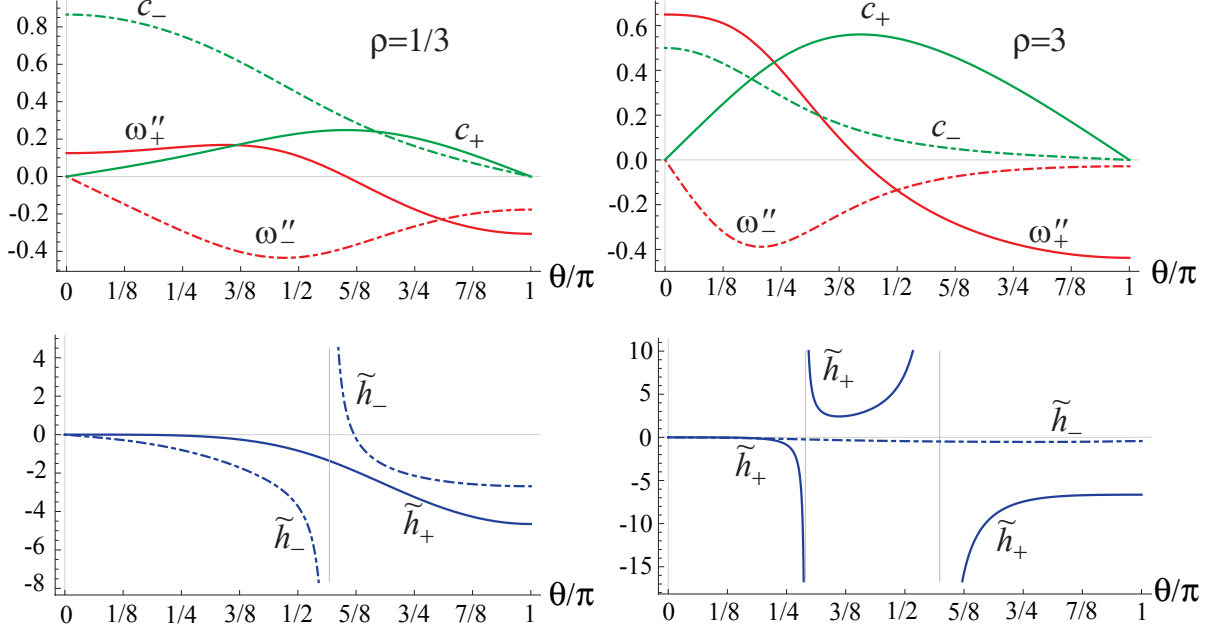


Figure 3: Representative plots of group velocity c (green), curvature ω'' (red) and \tilde{h} (blue) as functions of the scaled wave number θ/π at different mass ratios for optical (solid) and acoustic (dashed) branches. Here $\alpha = 3/2$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$, $\kappa = 1$. Left column corresponds to $\rho = 1/3$ and right column to $\rho = 3$.

branch has negative \tilde{h}_+ in $(0, \pi]$ with no singularities, and the single transition from focusing to defocusing regime occurs due to the inflection point at $\theta = \theta_c \approx 1.892$ in the dispersion curve ($\omega''_+(\theta_c) = 0$). At $\rho = 3$, however, \tilde{h}_+ changes sign twice via singularities (breakdown of (18)), and together with the inflection point this yields three transition points separating focusing and defocusing regions (see also the left plot in Fig. 2). Meanwhile, the acoustic branch, as already noted, has no inflection points in $(0, \pi]$, $\omega''_- < 0$, and the transition from defocusing to focusing (for $\theta \in (1.784, 1.949)$) and back at $\rho = 1/3$ occurs through the change of sign of \tilde{h}_- due to singularity (breakdown of (18)) and going through zero. At $\rho = 3$ we have $\tilde{h}_- < 0$ in $(0, \pi]$ without singularities, so the regime is defocusing.

To complete the above results, let us illustrate how the precompression δ_0 in (3) influences the number of focusing regions for a given mass ratio ρ . In what follows we fix $\kappa = 1$ in (2). Moreover, we parameterize the optical and acoustic modes using their frequency ω instead of wavenumber θ . This parameterization is interesting from a practical point of view, in order to analyze the response of granular chains to a periodic driving (see Sec. 4.3 for an example).

Fig. 4 illustrates how the focusing regions depend on δ_0 in the case of optical modes. For $\rho = 3$, the left plot displays the optical band bounded by the graph of $\delta_0 \mapsto \omega = \omega_+(\pi)$ and lying above the line $\omega = \omega_+(0) = \sqrt{\kappa(1 + \rho^{-1})}$. Within the optical band, the hatched region corresponds to the focusing case $\omega''_+ \tilde{h}_+ < 0$ and white regions to the defocusing case $\omega''_+ \tilde{h}_+ > 0$. When δ_0 exceeds a threshold (around $\delta_0 = 0.22$), the band of focusing modes splits into two parts. The right plot describes the case of a larger mass ratio $\rho = 17.8$. The

above transition from one to two focusing bands still takes place, but the precompression threshold is much lower, around $\delta_0 = 0.002$. When δ_0 is further increased, the number of focusing bands changes according to the transitions $2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3$, within the range of precompression previously examined for $\rho = 3$.

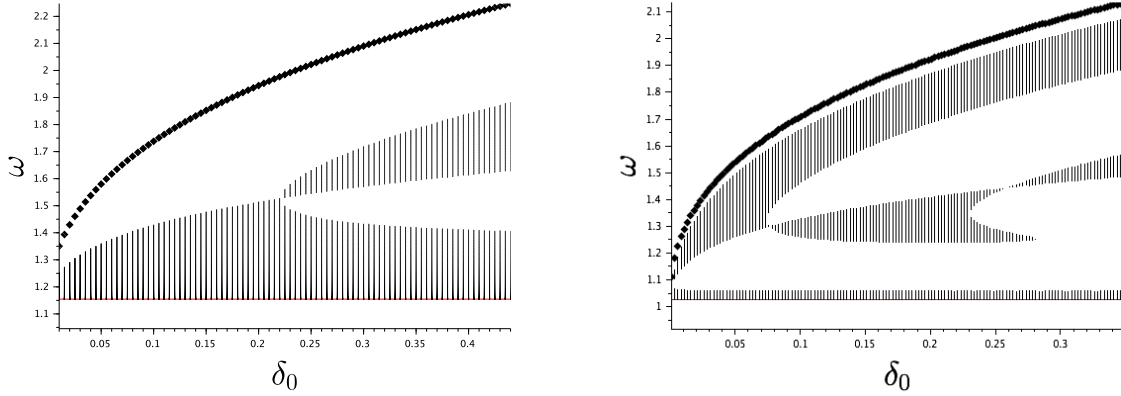


Figure 4: Optical band delimited by $\omega = \omega_+(\pi)$ (dotted curve) and $\omega = \omega_+(0) = \sqrt{\kappa(1 + \rho^{-1})}$ (red line), versus precompression δ_0 . We have fixed $\kappa = 1$, $\rho = 3$ (left plot) and $\rho = 17.8$ (right plot). Hatched regions correspond to the focusing case $\omega''\tilde{h} < 0$.

The case of acoustic modes is illustrated by Fig. 5 for $\rho = 0.32$. When precompression lies below a threshold (around $\delta_0 = 0.06$), all acoustic modes are defocusing, while a thin band of focusing modes exists above this threshold.

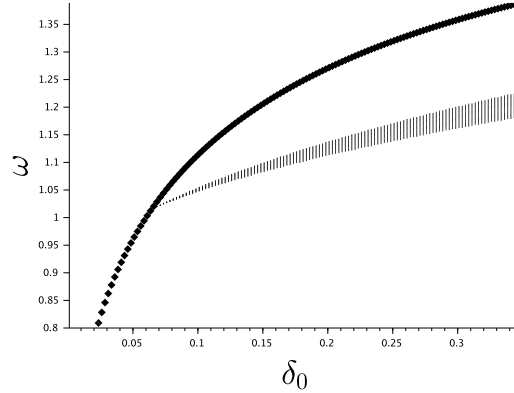


Figure 5: The upper curve (black diamonds) corresponds to the graph of $\delta_0 \mapsto \omega_-(\pi)$ delimiting the acoustic band $\omega \in [0, \omega_-(\pi)]$, where we have fixed $\kappa = 1$ and $\rho = 0.32$. The hatched region corresponds to the focusing case $\omega''\tilde{h} < 0$.

4 Moving bright breathers in the granular chain

From direct numerical simulations of the granular chain, we now investigate how well the dynamics governed by the focusing NLS equation approximates the solutions of the original lattice. Due to the existence of a kink component in the position variables u_n, v_n for bright breathers, it is convenient to rewrite (2) in terms of strain variables $x_n = \delta^- u_n = u_n - u_{n-1}$ and $y_n = \delta^- v_n = v_n - v_{n-1}$, which yields

$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x}_n &= V'(x_{n+1}) - 2V'(x_n) + V'(x_{n-1}) - \kappa(x_n - y_n), \\ \rho \ddot{y}_n &= \kappa(x_n - y_n).\end{aligned}\tag{37}$$

Numerical integration is performed on the lattice of size $2N + 1$ with zero-strain boundary conditions $x_{-N-1} = x_{N+1} = 0$ unless explicitly stated. We use the same parameters as before ($\alpha = 3/2$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$, $\kappa = 1$) and simulate (37) for different mass ratio ρ and initial conditions described below.

4.1 Analytical approximation of breather profiles

We recall that solutions of the NLS equation (27) define small amplitude approximate solutions (12) to the original lattice (2), where $A(\xi, \tau)$ describes the amplitude of a plane-wave mode $E(t, n) := e^{i(n\theta - \omega t)}$. Using (12), (16), (32) and (33), we find that the approximate breather solutions given by the focusing NLS equation ($\omega''\tilde{h} < 0$) take the form

$$\begin{aligned}x_n^A(t) &= \delta^- u_n^A(t) = 2M_2\delta^- \{\text{sech}[a(n - n_0 - ct)] \cos(n\theta - \omega_b t + \beta F(\varepsilon^2 t))\} \\ &\quad + M_1\delta^- \tanh[a(n - n_0 - ct)] + \varepsilon^2 f(\varepsilon^2 t), \\ y_n^A(t) &= \delta^- v_n^A(t) = \frac{2\kappa M_2}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} \delta^- \{\text{sech}[a(n - n_0 - ct)] \cos(n\theta - \omega_b t + \beta F(\varepsilon^2 t))\} \\ &\quad + M_1\delta^- \tanh[a(n - n_0 - ct)] + \varepsilon^2 f(\varepsilon^2 t),\end{aligned}\tag{38}$$

with arbitrary spatial translation by n_0 . Here instead of $\mu\varepsilon^2$ we introduce the breather frequency $\omega_b = \omega - \mu\varepsilon^2$, a real number such that $|\omega - \omega_b| = O(\varepsilon^2)$, $(\omega - \omega_b)\omega'' > 0$, $(\omega - \omega_b)\tilde{h} < 0$, and set

$$M_1 = \frac{\lambda\sqrt{2\omega''(\omega - \omega_b)}}{|\tilde{h}|}, \quad M_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2(\omega_b - \omega)}{\tilde{h}}} \quad \text{and} \quad a = \sqrt{\frac{2(\omega - \omega_b)}{\omega''}}.$$

Recall that $f(\tau)$ is a slow-time varying function, independent of n and $F(\tau)$ is its antiderivative. In what follows we simply set $F(\tau) \equiv 0$ so that $f(\tau) \equiv 0$.

To numerically integrate (37), we start with initial condition determined from the first order approximation (38) at $t = 0$, along with initial velocities given by

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_n(0) &= c a \left\{ -M_1\delta^- \text{sech}^2[a(n - n_0)] + 2M_2\delta^- \tanh[a(n - n_0)] \text{sech}[a(n - n_0)] \cos(n\theta) \right\} \\ &\quad + 2\omega_b M_2 \delta^- \text{sech}[a(n - n_0)] \sin(n\theta), \\ \dot{y}_n(0) &= c a \left\{ -M_1\delta^- \text{sech}^2[a(n - n_0)] + \frac{2\kappa M_2}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} \delta^- \tanh[a(n - n_0)] \text{sech}[a(n - n_0)] \cos(n\theta) \right\} \\ &\quad + \frac{2\omega_b \kappa M_2}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} \delta^- \text{sech}[a(n - n_0)] \sin(n\theta).\end{aligned}\tag{39}$$

In numerical computations, we fix $\omega_b = \omega + s \cdot 10^{-4}$ with $s = \text{sign}(\tilde{h}) = \pm 1$. When \tilde{h} and ω'' are of order unity, the breather amplitude M_2 is then of order 10^{-2} and its width a^{-1} close to 100 particles. Note however that the breather amplitude becomes larger in nearly degenerate cases where \tilde{h} becomes small, or more strongly localized when ω'' is small. The weakly nonlinear approximation (38) is not expected to be accurate in these more strongly nonlinear regimes, as will be numerically confirmed in Sec. 4.2.

4.2 Moving bright breathers for moderate mass ratio

We choose a moderate mass ratio $\rho = 1/3$ and start by considering the optical case. Recall from the discussion in Sec. 3.1 (see also the left plots in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3) that for this mass ratio the focusing regime takes place at $0 < \theta < \theta_c$, where $\theta_c \approx 1.892$ satisfies $\omega''_+(\theta_c) = 0$.

We first consider the wave number $\theta = \pi/2 < \theta_c$. As shown in Fig. 6, the agreement between the numerical evolution of (37) and the approximate analytical solution is excellent, even after a long time at $t = 200 T_b$, where $T_b = 2\pi/\omega_b = 2.8885$ is the period of the modulated wave. The relative errors of the approximation (38), defined by $E_x(t) = \|x_n^A(t) - x_n(t)\|_\infty / \|x_n(0)\|_\infty$ and $E_y(t) = \|y_n^A(t) - y_n(t)\|_\infty / \|y_n(0)\|_\infty$, remain less than 3.5% over the time of computation. In the simulation, we observe that the numerically exact solutions have a localized structure which moves to the right end at the speed approximately equal to the group velocity $c_+ \approx 0.23$. Meanwhile, time variations of wave amplitude are well captured by the NLS approximation (38). Snapshots of these *moving bright breathers* at different times are also shown in Fig. 6.

To further illustrate the strong mobility of the bright breather, we consider the energy density (energy stored at the n th site):

$$e_n = \frac{1}{2}\dot{u}_n^2 + \frac{\rho}{2}\dot{v}_n^2 + \frac{\kappa}{2}(u_n - v_n)^2 + \frac{1}{5}[(\delta_0 - \delta^- u_n)_+^{5/2} + (\delta_0 - \delta^+ u_n)_+^{5/2}] + \frac{1}{2}\delta_0^{3/2}(u_{n+1} - u_{n-1}) - \frac{2}{5}\delta_0^{5/2}. \quad (40)$$

The left plot in Fig. 7 shows the energy density in the system (2), and the right plot displays the time evolution of the (local) energy center of mass, which is defined by

$$X = \frac{\sum_{i=n'-m}^{n'+m} i e_i}{\sum_{i=n'-m}^{n'+m} e_i}, \quad (41)$$

with n' being the location of the maximum energy density of the breather and $m > 0$ an integer which accounts for the width of the breather (we set $m = 100$).

In the second numerical run, we choose a smaller wave number $\theta = \pi/8$, while the other parameters remain the same. The linear frequency is now given by $\omega = 2.0098$ which is fairly close to the $\theta = 0$ edge of the optical branch. As shown in Fig. 3, the corresponding value of $|\tilde{h}|$ decreases dramatically, so that the amplitude of the strain profiles increases. In fact, we now have $\|x_n(0)\|_\infty \approx 0.208 < \delta_0$, which is of the same order as $\delta_0 = 0.444$. We perform the same numerical integration over the time interval $[0, 150 T_b]$, where $T_b = 2\pi/\omega_b = 3.1265$ and $\omega_b = \omega - 0.0001 = 2.0097$. As shown in the bottom plot of Fig. 8, the NLS approximation remains excellent at the early stage of the simulation, with relative errors less than 3% when $t \leq 150$. However, later the approximation error becomes large, and the energy spreads

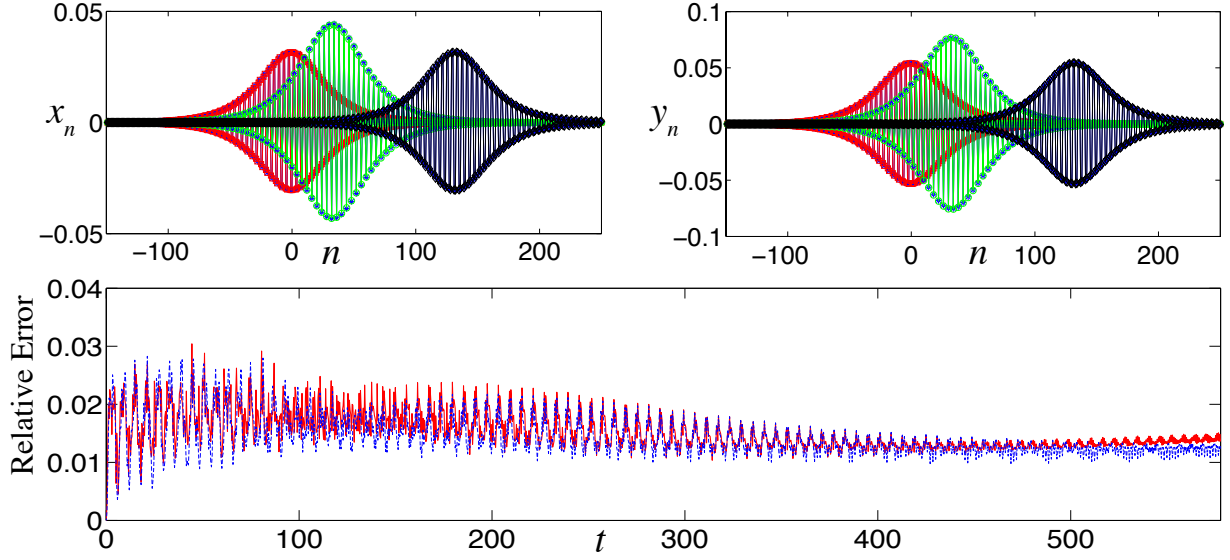


Figure 6: Top plots: snapshots of a moving optical bright breather solution x_n and y_n of the original system (2), with initial data determined from (38), (39). The breather moving from the middle of the chain to the right is shown here at $t = 0$ (connected red squares), $t = 50.125 T_b \approx 145$ (connected green circles) and $t = 200 T_b \approx 578$ (connected black squares). The same plots compare the time snapshots of the approximate analytical solution (connected blue stars) and the numerical evolution result at the same times. Bottom plot: relative errors $E_x(t)$ (solid red curve) and $E_y(t)$ (dashed blue curve). Here $\theta = \pi/2$, $\kappa = 1$, $\rho = 1/3$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$, $\omega_b = \omega - 0.0001 = 2.1752$, $N = 500$ and $n_0 = 0$.

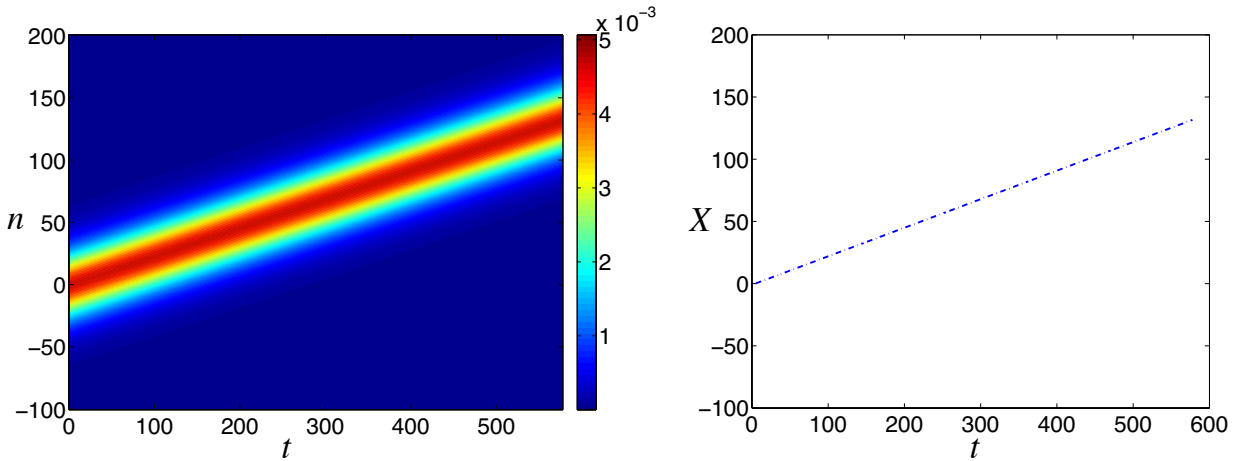


Figure 7: Left plot: energy density of a moving optical bright breather in the system (2). Right plot: time evolution of the breather's energy center. Here all the parameters are the same as in Fig. 6.

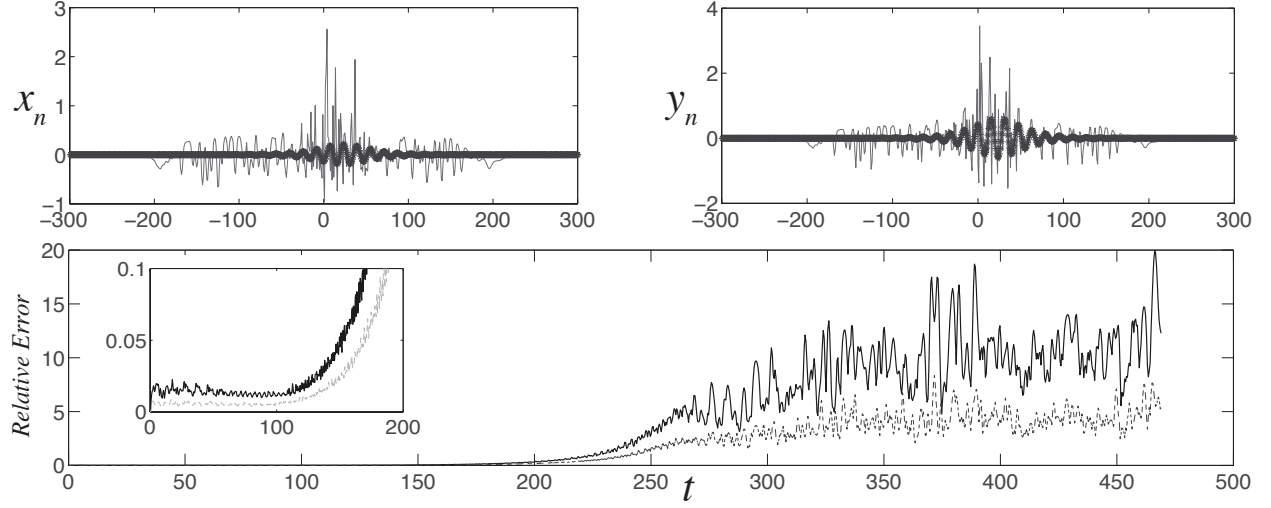


Figure 8: Top plots: comparison of time snapshot of approximate optical bright breather (connected stars) and numerical solution (grey curve) at $t = 150 T_b \approx 469$. Bottom plot: relative errors $E_x(t)$ (solid curve) and $E_y(t)$ (dashed curve). Inset: the relative error for $t \in [0, 200]$. Here $\theta = \pi/8$, $\omega_b = \omega - 0.0001 = 2.0097$, and the other parameters are the same as in Fig. 6.

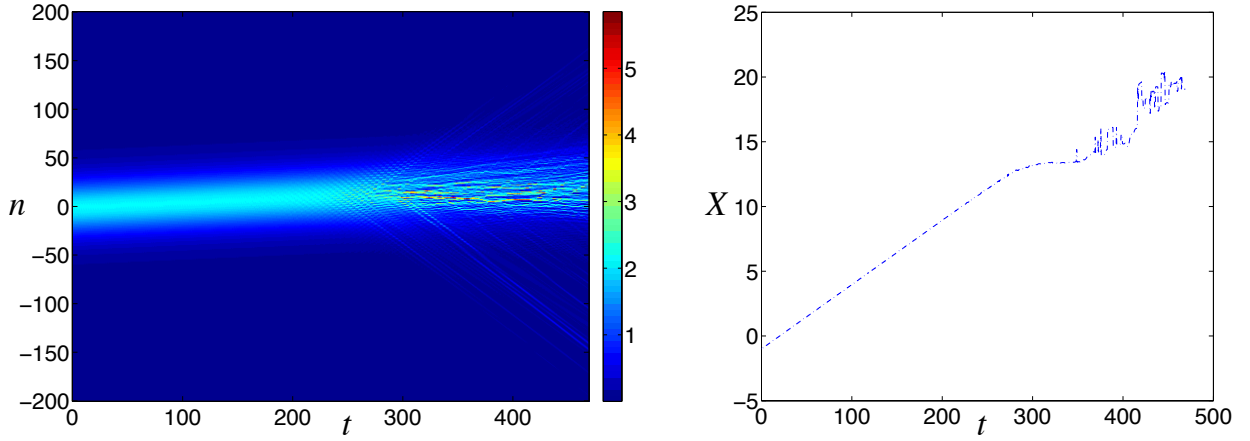


Figure 9: Left plot: energy density of a moving optical bright breather in system (2). Right plot: time evolution of the breather's energy center. Clearly here, past a certain point in time, Eq. (41) used to identify the center incorporates the radiation emitted by the breather and reflects the deformation of the structure illustrated in the left panel, no longer accurately representing the breather center position. Here $\theta = \pi/8$, $\omega_b = \omega - 0.0001 = 2.0097$, and the other parameters are the same as in Fig. 6.

out towards both ends of the chain, as shown in Fig. 9. The ensuing waveform no longer preserves the structure of a breather.

An interesting question is whether there exist static bright breathers at the $\theta = 0$ edge of the optical branch. Recall that the order of the approximate solution (38) roughly depends on the magnitude of M_1 and M_2 and thus on \tilde{h} that appears in their denominators. As shown in Fig. 3, the value of \tilde{h} becomes extremely small when θ is close to zero. Hence we need to choose ω_b very close to ω to ensure that the approximate solutions are within the small-amplitude regime. Meanwhile, the width a^{-1} of the moving breather is $\sim |\omega - \omega_b|^{-1/2}$ when $\omega \rightarrow \omega_b$. When $|\omega - \omega_b|$ is very small, we have to run simulations on an extremely long chain in order to observe the localized structure with a decaying tail. Therefore, it is numerically impractical to investigate static bright breathers as a limit of the moving ones using the focusing NLS approximation (38). However, the multiscale analysis used to derive the modulation equations still holds for $\theta = 0$, yielding $\beta = h = c = 0$ so that (14)-(15) become the linear equations

$$i\partial_\tau A_{1,1} + \frac{1}{2}\omega''\partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} = 0, \quad \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,0} = 0 \quad (42)$$

where $\omega'' = K_2\gamma = \kappa K_2/\omega^3$. Given the absence of localization at this order of the asymptotic expansion (12), we do not have any evidence of the existence of static bright breathers in this limit, contrary, e.g., to what is the case in the diatomic granular chain case [6].

We now consider wave numbers above $\pi/2$ but below θ_c at the same mass ratio $\rho = 1/3$. In the numerical simulation, we observe that the NLS approximation of the moving bright breathers remains excellent over a finite time interval until the wave number is close to $\theta_c \approx 1.892$, which, as we recall, marks the boundary between focusing and defocusing regions at our parameter values. To illustrate what happens below but very close to this boundary, we consider the wave number $\theta = 3\pi/5 \approx 1.885$ and perform the numerical integration over the time interval $[0, 200 T_b]$, where $T_b = 2\pi/\omega_b = 2.791$ and $\omega_b = \omega - 0.0001 = 2.2512$. As illustrated by the snapshots of the strain profiles of x_n and y_n at time $t = 200 T_b \approx 558.2$, as well as by the space-time evolution of the energy density in Fig. 10, the resulting waveform mostly preserves its localized structure and moves to the right at the velocity approximately equal to c_+ . However, we observe the growing trend of the relative error of the NLS approximation emerging from the very beginning of the simulation. In particular, the approximation fails to capture the increasing size of the tail in the numerical solution, which suggests that the localized wave generated by the present initial condition (approximation (38) at $t = 0$) cannot be robustly sustained for long-time dynamical evolutions. However, one can expect a better accuracy of the NLS ansatz (38) if $|\omega_b - \omega|$ is further reduced.

We next investigate bright breathers associated with the acoustic branch. From the discussion in Sec. 3.1 (see also the right plot in Fig. 2 and the left plots in Fig. 3), we recall that in this case the focusing regime takes place only in a narrow interval of wave numbers for a range of small enough mass ratios. In the case $\rho = 1/3$, with other parameters kept the same as before, this θ -interval is $(1.7841, 1.949)$.

For initial conditions with wave numbers θ in the lower part of the focusing θ -interval, the resulting waveform mostly preserves its localized structure over the time interval $[0, 100 T_b]$ but we observe a growing trend of the relative error of the NLS approximation from the very beginning of the simulation. For example, $\theta = 1.7845$ yields $T_b = 5.187$, and relative errors

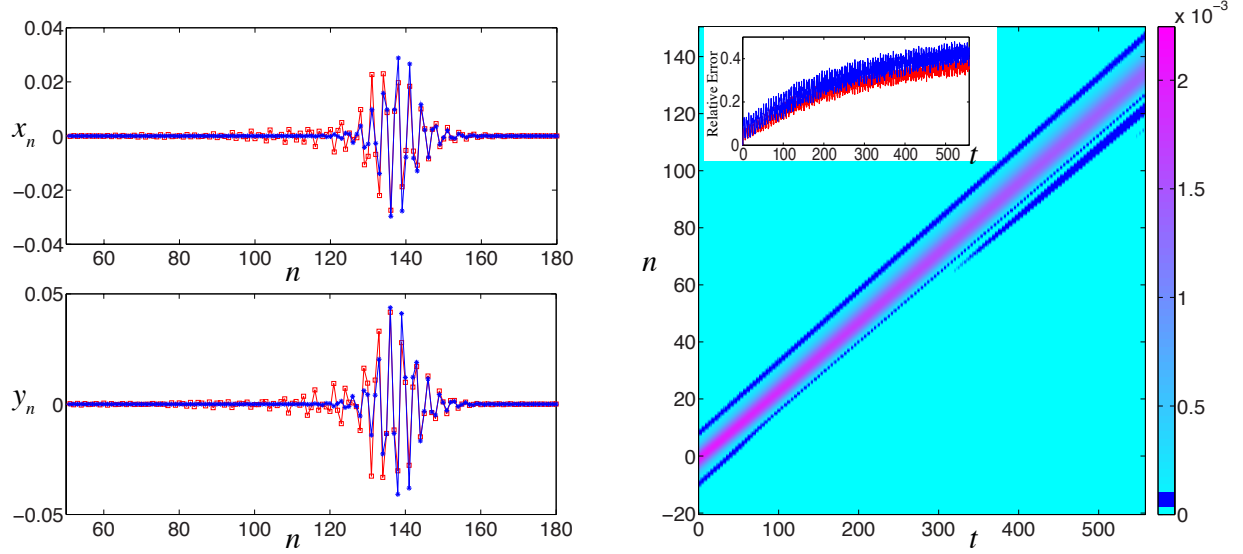


Figure 10: Left panels: comparison of the time snapshots of the approximate optical bright breather (connected blue stars) and the numerical evolution result (red squares) at $t = 200 T_b \approx 558.2$ for $\theta = 3\pi/5$, $\omega_b = \omega - 0.0001 = 2.2512$, $N = 1000$; the other parameters are the same as in Fig. 6. Right panels: energy density of the moving bright breather in the system (2). The dark blue color marks a range of small energy densities in order to better show the growing size of the tail behind the breather. The inset depicts the relative errors $E_x(t)$ (red) and $E_y(t)$ (blue).

$E_x(t)$, $E_y(t)$ increase up to 0.1 for $t \approx 100 T_b$ (data not shown). Such values of θ are close to the singularity where the cubic coefficient \tilde{h}_- is very large (see left bottom plot of Fig. 3), which corresponds to a near-resonant situation with optical modes where $\omega_+(2\theta) \approx 2\omega_-(\theta)$. In a neighborhood of this resonance, the NLS approximation is expected to be less precise since it does not account for the excitation of optical modes.

At wave numbers near the upper bound of the focusing θ -interval, when \tilde{h}_- decreases and approaches zero, yielding a relatively large amplitude of $\|x_n(0)\|_\infty$, we observed another small-amplitude bright breather eventually detaching from the original waveform and moving to the left with constant velocity near $-c_+$, suggesting that this second breather is an *optical* one. See, for example, the results of the numerical simulation for $\theta = 1.948$ shown in Fig. 11. Clearly, the NLS approximation does not capture this feature.

Finally, we consider $\theta = 1.87$, which is in the middle of the focusing interval for the acoustic branch at $\rho = 1/3$. Similar to the result shown in Fig. 11, a small-amplitude optical breather eventually detaches from the parent breather and propagates to the left, although in this case the amplitudes of both parent and secondary breathers are much smaller, and the parent breather deviates significantly less from the initial NLS ansatz and robustly propagates through the lattice; see Fig. 12. Interestingly, we also observe small-amplitude oscillations emitted by both primary and secondary breathers, suggesting the existence of *nanoptera* (bright breathers with small-amplitude oscillatory tails) in the lattice under consideration. To further investigate this phenomenon, we performed another simulation at $\theta = 1.87$, where we solved (2) with emitting time-dependent boundary conditions obtained by evaluating the initial NLS ansatz at the ends of the computational domain. In this case no secondary breather was nucleated but robust propagation of an acoustic nanopterion was

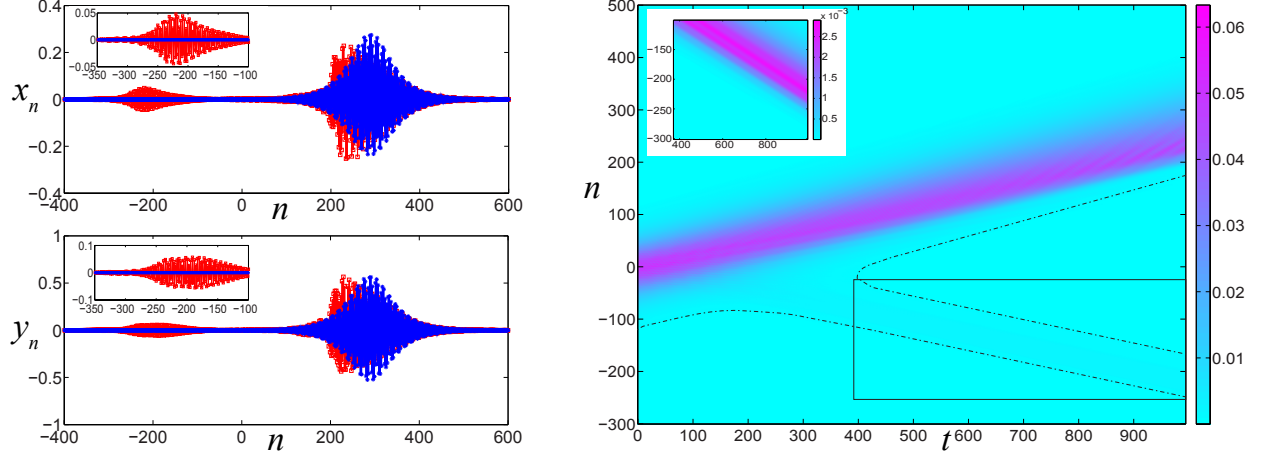


Figure 11: Left panels: comparison of the time snapshots of the approximate analytical solution (acoustic bright breather, connected blue stars) and the numerical evolution result (connected red squares) at $t = 200 T_b \approx 994$ for $\theta = 1.948$, $\omega_b = \omega + 0.0001 = 1.264$, $N = 1000$; the other parameters are the same as in Fig. 6. Insets zoom in on the small-amplitude optical breather that eventually separates from the initial acoustic breather. Right panel: energy density of the numerical solution of the system (2) showing the energy density of the parent breather (darker color) and the small-amplitude breather detaching from it (faint lighter color bounded by the dash-dotted lines for better visibility), also shown in the inset that enlarges the region inside the rectangle.

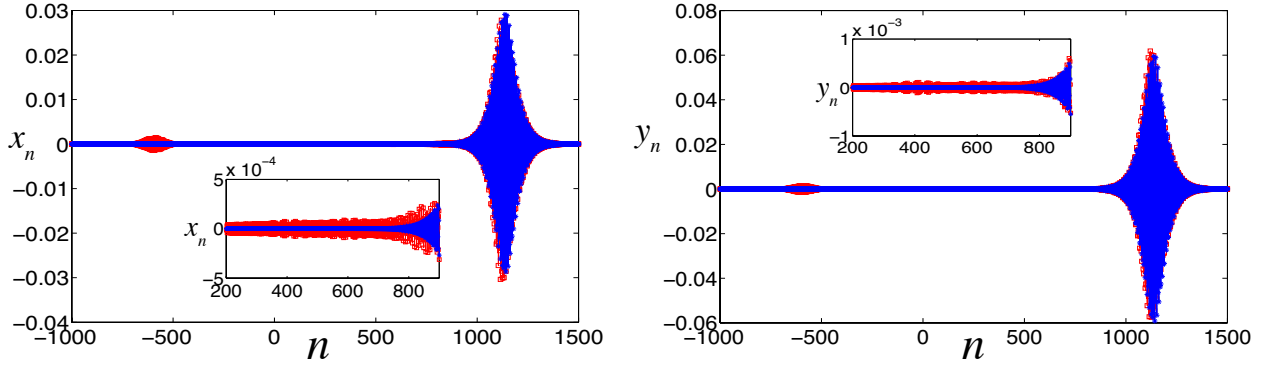


Figure 12: Comparison of the time snapshots of the approximate analytical solution (acoustic bright breather, connected blue stars) and the numerical evolution result (connected red squares) at $t = 700 T_b \approx 3546.44$ for $\theta = 1.87$, $\omega_b = \omega + 0.0001 = 1.2402$, $N = 2000$; the other parameters are the same as in Fig. 6. Insets zoom in on the small-amplitude tail behind the primary acoustic breather. Similar tail forms behind the secondary optical breather propagating to the left.

again observed.

4.3 Moving bright breathers for large mass ratio

In the acoustic case, the NLS equation is defocusing at large enough ρ and thus it does not admit breather solutions. In what follows, we investigate the effect of larger mass ratios on the optical bright breathers and their NLS approximation.

We first use the same approach as in Sec. 4.2, integrating (37) from the initial conditions given in Sec. 4.1. We start with the mass ratio $\rho = 10$, at which the focusing regime corresponds to two disjoint θ -intervals $(0, 0.3681)$ and $(1.2263, 2.4389)$.

At wave numbers in the upper part of each interval, we found that NLS provides an excellent approximation of the corresponding small-amplitude moving bright breather over a finite time. Note that the divergence of \tilde{h} for $\theta \approx 0.3681$ and $\theta \approx 2.4389$ corresponds to the case $c^2(1 + \rho) - K_2 \approx 0$, where the group velocity of the carrier wave becomes close to the maximal group velocity of acoustic modes. This phenomenon does not seem to affect the quality of the NLS approximation.

We observe that the accuracy of the NLS approximation deteriorates near the lower bounds of the two θ -intervals. Similarly to the results shown in Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 for the case $\rho = 1/3$, \tilde{h} becomes small for $\theta \approx 0$ and the localized structure eventually breaks down. At wave numbers near the lower bound of the θ -interval $(1.2263, 2.4389)$, one has $\omega''_+ \approx 0$ and we observe not only the increasing size of the tail in the numerical solution, similar to the example shown in Fig. 10 for the case $\rho = 1/3$, but also the emergence of a train of bright-breather-like structures clearly visible in the y_n variable that separate from the initial breather and slowly move in both directions with speed approximately equal to c_- , suggesting their acoustic nature. Meanwhile, the optical breather initiated by the NLS approximation propagates to the right with velocity close to c_+ . See, for example, Fig. 13, where the wave number is $\theta = 1.23$, and we have $c_- \approx 0.0754$ and $c_+ \approx 0.6$.

To complete the above results, we now illustrate the spontaneous formation of moving bright breathers without resorting to well-prepared localized initial conditions. A key mechanism for the formation of moving or static breathers in nonlinear lattices is the modulational instability of periodic waves; see [16] for a review and [6, 9, 10, 17, 24] for specific studies concerning granular chains. In the weakly nonlinear regime, this phenomenon can be understood from the focusing NLS equation ($\omega'' \tilde{h} < 0$). In the focusing case, the spatially homogeneous solutions $A_{\theta,r}(\tau) = r e^{-i\tilde{h}r^2\tau}$ of (27) correspond formally to unstable periodic traveling waves of (2), which self-localize under long-wave perturbations. An interesting approach to explore modulational instabilities consists of driving a bead with a particular modulationally unstable frequency (see e.g. the experiments in [6]). This approach is of practical relevance because it is not straightforward to initialize desired periodic wave profiles throughout a granular chain in experiments.

In what follows, we illustrate the excitation of optical bright breathers for $\rho = 10$ using the above approach. We consider a chain of 2002 elements, sufficiently long to ensure that waves reflected from the ends remain negligible in the regions of interest within the time frame of simulation. The chain is at rest at $t = 0$. We clamp the last bead and impose a

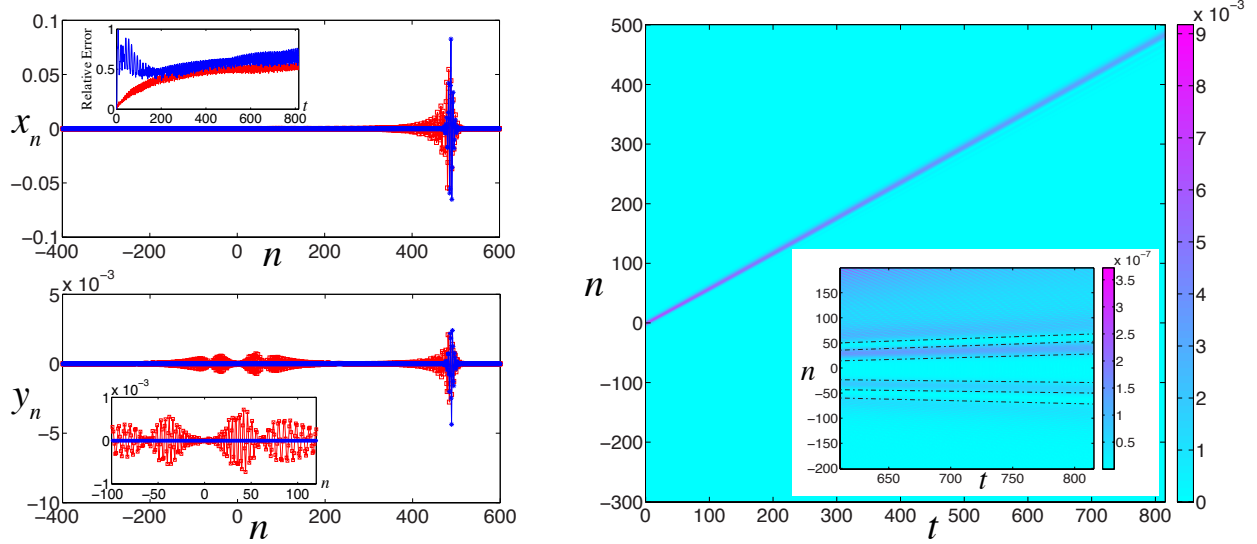


Figure 13: Left panels: comparison of the time snapshots of the approximate analytical solution (optical bright breather, connected blue stars) and the numerical evolution result (connected red squares) at $t = 200 T_b \approx 815.28$ for $\rho = 10$, $\theta = 1.23$, $\omega_b = \omega + 0.0001 = 1.5414$, $N = 1000$; the other parameters are the same as in Fig. 6. Relative errors $E_x(t)$ (red) and $E_y(t)$ (blue) are shown in the top left inset. Bottom left inset zooms in on the train of acoustic waveforms that eventually separate from the initial optical breather. Right panel: energy density of the numerical solution of the system (2). The inset zooms in on the train of acoustic breather-like structures (not visible in the main energy plot), with dash-dotted lines added for better visibility.

sinusoidal motion of the first bead at a frequency within the focusing region of the optical band (see Fig. 2). More precisely, we simulate equation (2) with $n \in \{1, \dots, 2000\}$ and boundary conditions $u_{2001}(t) = 0$, $u_0(t) = A_0 \sin(\omega_0 t) \chi(t)$ for $t \geq 0$, where $\omega_0 = 2.1 = \omega_+(\theta)$ ($\theta \approx 2.34$) and χ denotes a smooth plateau function, which is slowly varying compared to the driving period $T_0 = 2\pi/\omega_0 \approx 2.99$. The envelope $\chi(t)$ increases smoothly from 0 to (near)-unity for $t \in [0, 30 T_0]$, is almost equal to unity for $t \in [30 T_0, 200 T_0]$, decreases smoothly to 0 for $t \in [200 T_0, 260 T_0]$ and almost vanishes for larger times. This is achieved by fixing $\chi(t) = \tanh[r t] (1 - \tanh[r(t - t_m)]) / 2$ with $r = 0.046$ and $t_m = 700$. We impose a moderate driving amplitude $A_0 = 0.06 = 0.135 \times \delta_0$. Figures 14 and 15 describe the system response to the above boundary excitation.

At the early stage of the simulation, a periodic traveling wave close to the optical mode with frequency ω_0 is established. This wave corresponds to the grey region in the left panel of Fig. 14 which displays the energy density e_n in the chain. This wave pattern is initially mainly confined between $n = 0$ and $n = c_+ t$, where $c_+ = \omega'_+(\theta)$ is the group velocity of the carrier wave. For $t \geq t_m$, the support of the traveling wave pattern stabilizes to roughly 200 lattice sites and is mainly transported with the group velocity c_+ . The right panel of Fig. 14 shows the detail of the traveling wave pattern, and a snapshot of bead velocities at a fixed time is shown in the left panel of Fig. 15.

In the second stage, the periodic traveling wave destabilizes leading to a traveling multi-breather state (i.e. a train of closely spaced traveling breathers). The formation and propagation of these localized structures is visible in the energy density plot of Fig. 14 (left panel). Breather profiles are shown in the right panel of Fig. 15 which provides a snapshot of bead

velocities at a fixed time.

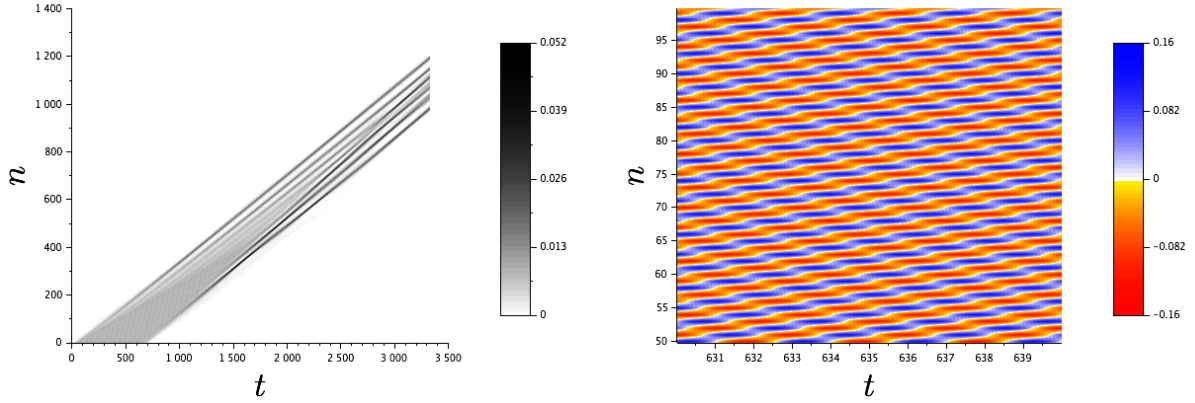


Figure 14: Space time diagrams illustrating the system response to a periodic sinusoidal excitation applied at $n = 0$ during some finite time interval (see text). Left panel: energy density $e_n(t)$ defined by (40). Right panel: bead velocities $\dot{u}_n(t)$ for a space-time zoom-in of the left panel.

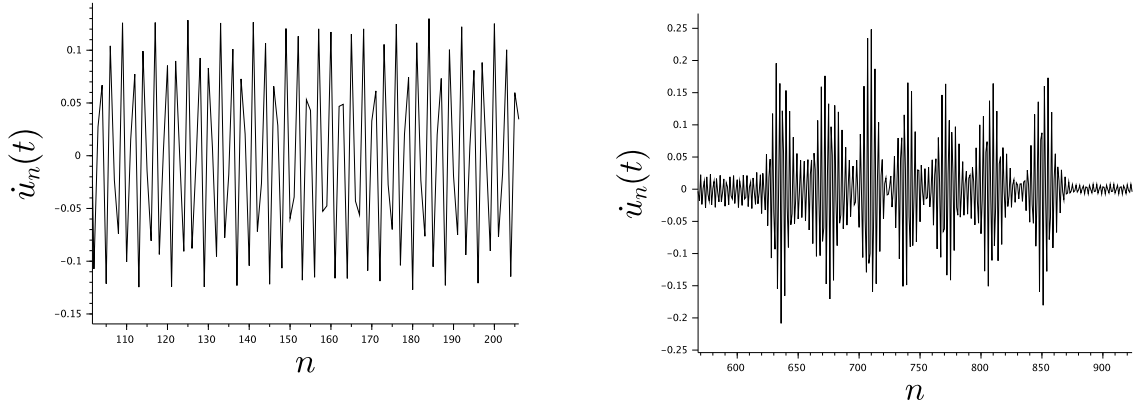


Figure 15: Snapshots of bead velocities $\dot{u}_n(t)$ at $t = 779.9$ (left panel) and $t = 2400$ (right panel) in different parts of the chain, from the same simulation as Fig. 14.

5 Dark breather solutions in the granular chain

5.1 Dynamical excitation of dark breathers

In this section, we show that unstable periodic traveling waves do not necessarily lead to breather solutions (in contrast with the example of Figures 14-15) and can generate in some cases long-lived dark breather solutions. For this purpose, we simulate equation (2) with

periodic boundary conditions $u_{n+N} = u_n$, $v_{n+N} = v_n$ and $N = 401$. As previously we choose $\alpha = 3/2$, $\kappa = 1$, and we now fix $\rho = 0.32$, $\delta_0 = 0.27$.

We integrate equation (2) numerically for the initial condition

$$\begin{aligned} u_n(0) &= \epsilon \sin(\theta_0 n) (1 + b \cos(2n\pi/N)), \\ \dot{u}_n(0) &= -\epsilon \omega \cos(\theta_0 n) (1 + b \cos(2n\pi/N)), \\ v_n(0) &= \frac{\kappa}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} u_n(0), \\ \dot{v}_n(0) &= \frac{\kappa}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} \dot{u}_n(0) \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

corresponding to a slowly modulated acoustic mode, with amplitude $\epsilon = 0.03$, a wavenumber $\theta_0 = 252\pi/N \approx 1.97$ in the band of unstable acoustic modes, $\omega = \omega_-(\theta_0) \approx 1.17$ and $b = 0.01$. The initial velocity profile is shown in the top left panel of Fig. 16.

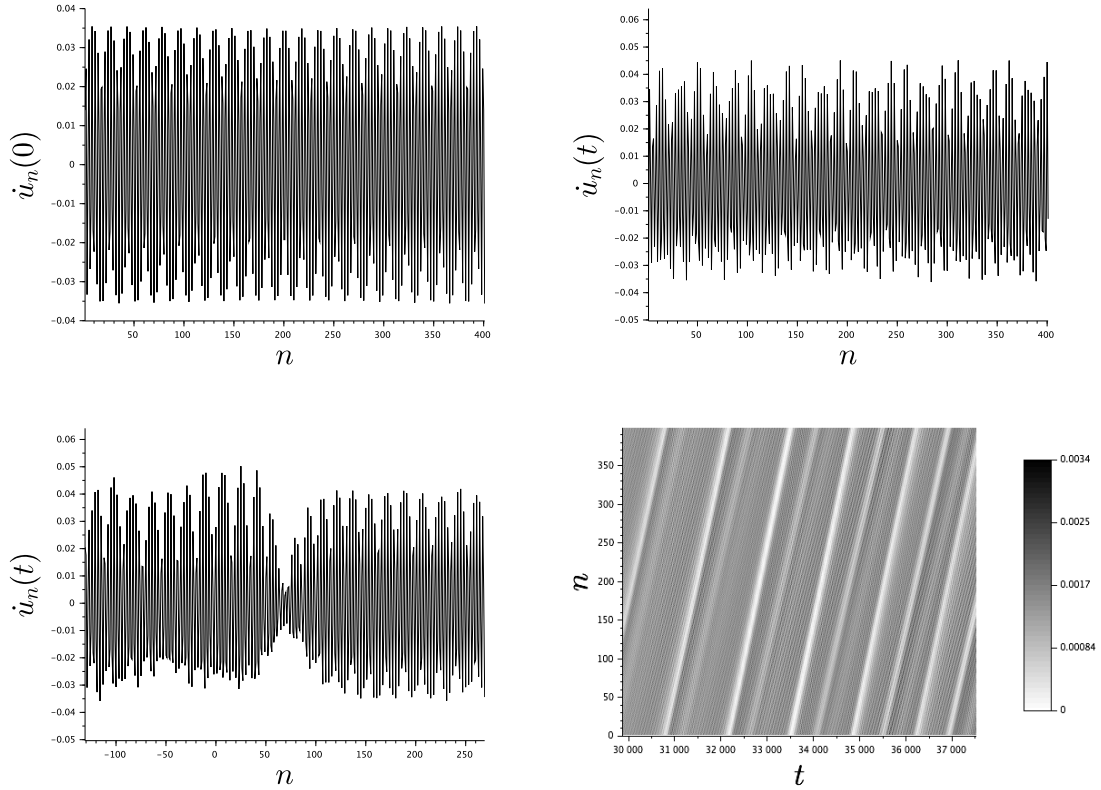


Figure 16: Evolution of the initial condition (43) in system (2) with periodic boundary conditions ($N = 401$ particles). Particle velocities $\dot{u}_n(t)$ are displayed at $t = 0$ (top left panel), $t = 17100$ (top right panel) and $t = 32400$ (bottom left panel). The top right panel illustrates a short-wavelength oscillatory instability. As shown in the bottom left panel, a traveling dark breather is generated at a later stage (the profile of $\dot{v}_n(t)$ is qualitatively similar to $\dot{u}_n(t)$ shown in the figure). The bottom right panel shows the energy density $e_n(t)$ in grey levels (see definition (40)).

The time-evolution of the above initial condition is described in Fig. 16. System (2) generates a weakly modulated periodic traveling wave over a long transient $t \in [0, 16300]$

(roughly 3000 periods of the acoustic mode). An oscillatory instability starts to develop around $t = 16300$, with a characteristic wavelength much shorter than the initial modulation (the resulting perturbation of the traveling wave is illustrated in the top right panel for $t = 17100$). For larger times around $t = 30000$, one observes the formation of a traveling dark breather (the corresponding velocity profile at $t = 32400$ is shown in the bottom left panel). In Fig. 16, the space-time diagram (bottom right panel) displays the energy density $e_n(t)$ in the chain. The white line corresponds to the center of the traveling dark breather, where the energy density decreases significantly. The dark breather propagates at a velocity $c_{\text{db}} \approx 0.3$ close to $\omega'_-(\theta_0)$. One can notice that a second dark breather appears to progressively detach from the first one for $t > 33000$. For $t \geq 43000$, dark breathers disappear and a turbulent regime ensues.

Clearly, the focusing NLS equation does not capture the above dynamical features since it does not admit dark breather solutions. As discussed in Sec. 3.3, the band of focusing wavenumbers is narrow for acoustic modes (it corresponds to $\theta \in (1.888, 2.003)$ for the above parameter values) and the range of validity of the focusing NLS equation is questionable (see Sec. 4.2). In contrast, as we shall see in Sections 5.2 and 5.3, dark breather solutions of the defocusing NLS equation can be used to approximate (moving or stationary) dark breather solutions of the original lattice. Near the limit of vanishing amplitude, dark breathers propagate at a velocity close to the group velocity of the carrier wave. Near the lower edge of the defocusing band at $\theta \approx 2.003$, the group velocity is close to 0.29, and thus small-amplitude dark breathers propagate at velocities compatible with the results of Fig. 16 (bottom right panel). Along this line, the excitation of a dark breather from the initial condition (43) may be linked with the fact that the second harmonic with wavenumber $\theta = -2\theta_0 + 2\pi \approx 2.3$ falls within the defocusing band.

5.2 Approximate dark breather solutions

We now turn our attention to the defocusing case of the NLS equation ($\omega''\tilde{h} > 0$) and compute small-amplitude approximate dark breather solutions of the original lattice (37). Using (12), (35) and (36), we obtain approximate solutions in terms of strain variables given by

$$\begin{aligned} x_n^A(t) &= \delta^- u_n^A(t) = \varepsilon \delta^- \{M_3 + 2M_4 \cos[n\theta - \tilde{\omega}_b t + \beta F(\varepsilon^2 t)]\} \tanh[\eta \varepsilon(n - n_0 - ct)] \\ &\quad + \varepsilon^2 \left\{ f(\varepsilon^2 t) - \frac{\lambda \mu}{\tilde{h}} \right\}, \\ y_n^A(t) &= \delta^- v_n^A(t) = \varepsilon \delta^- \left\{ M_3 + \frac{2\kappa M_4}{\kappa - \rho \omega^2} \cos[n\theta - \tilde{\omega}_b t + \beta F(\varepsilon^2 t)] \right\} \tanh[\eta \varepsilon(n - n_0 - ct)] \\ &\quad + \varepsilon^2 \left\{ f(\varepsilon^2 t) - \frac{\lambda \mu}{\tilde{h}} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

where we define

$$M_3 = -\frac{\lambda \sqrt{-\omega'' \mu}}{|\tilde{h}|}, \quad M_4 = \sqrt{\frac{-\mu}{\tilde{h}}}, \quad \text{and} \quad \eta = \sqrt{-\frac{\mu}{\omega''}}.$$

Here n_0 corresponds to the spatial translation and $\tilde{\omega}_b = \omega - \mu\varepsilon^2$, where μ is any real number such that $\mu\omega'' < 0$, $\mu\tilde{h} < 0$. We recall that $c = \omega'_\pm(\theta)$ is the group velocity of the carrier wave and $f(\tau)$ in the $O(\varepsilon^2)$ term is undetermined.

The special case $c = 0$ of (44) corresponds to stationary dark breathers consisting of time-periodic and spatially modulated standing waves. This case occurs when the wave number is on the $\theta = \pi$ edges of the optical or acoustic branches, so that the group velocity c vanishes (the $\theta = 0$ edge of the optical branch where $\tilde{h} = 0$ cannot be included). This yields in (19), (23) and (28)

$$\beta = -4K_3\gamma, \quad \tilde{h} = (24K_4 - 32K_3^2/K_2)\gamma, \quad \omega'' = -K_2\gamma, \quad \lambda = -\frac{8K_3}{K_2}. \quad (45)$$

Then $\omega''\tilde{h} = -(24K_2K_4 - 32K_3^2)\gamma^2 > 0$, which corresponds to the defocusing case. The same condition was obtained, e.g., in [7, 32]; see also the discussion therein. Since $f(\tau)$ is an arbitrary function independent of ξ , we set

$$f(\varepsilon^2 t) \equiv \frac{\lambda\mu}{\tilde{h}} \quad (46)$$

to eliminate the ε^2 -term in (44). The antiderivative of $f(\tau)$ is now given by $F(\tau) = \lambda\mu\tau/\tilde{h}$, which leads to

$$\beta F(\tau) = -\frac{2\mu\tau}{3} \quad (47)$$

after evaluating K_2, K_3, K_4 for $\alpha = 3/2$ (see (4)). Substituting (47) into the cosine terms of (44) yields

$$\cos[n\theta - \tilde{\omega}_b t + \beta F(\varepsilon^2 t)] = \cos\left(\omega - \frac{1}{3}\mu\varepsilon^2\right)t$$

and the leading order NLS approximation (44) is now given by

$$\begin{aligned} x_n^A(t) &\approx \delta^- \left\{ -\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} + 2(-1)^n \cos(\omega_b t) \right\} \sqrt{\frac{3(\omega_b - \omega)}{\tilde{h}}} \tanh \left[\sqrt{\frac{3(\omega_b - \omega)}{\omega''}} (n - n_0) \right] \\ y_n^A(t) &\approx \delta^- \left\{ -\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} + \frac{2(-1)^n \kappa}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} \cos(\omega_b t) \right\} \sqrt{\frac{3(\omega_b - \omega)}{\tilde{h}}} \tanh \left[\sqrt{\frac{3(\omega_b - \omega)}{\omega''}} (n - n_0) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

where we have converted μ and ε into a new single parameter $\omega_b = \omega - \frac{1}{3}\mu\varepsilon^2$ measuring the breather frequency. Choosing $n_0 = 0$ in (48) results in a *site-centered* solution, whereas the *bond-centered* solution corresponds to $n_0 = 1/2$. Notice that although the continuum envelope approximation developed here permits an arbitrary selection of n_0 , discrete models typically only support such site- and bond-centered solutions with the corresponding selection of n_0 discussed above; see e.g. [16]. The energetic differences between these two solutions and the non-existence of solutions centered at other values of n_0 (due to the absence of translational invariance in the discrete problem) can only be detected beyond all algebraic orders [39].

When ω_b is close enough to ω , the ansatz (48) with $t = 0$ can be used as an initial seed for a Newton-type iteration to compute the numerically exact stationary dark breather

solutions of the discrete system (37) of both site-centered and bond-centered type. This computation will be performed in Sec. 5.3. In Sec. 5.4, the stability properties of stationary dark breathers will be analyzed, and traveling dark breathers with $c \neq 0$ will be generated from unstable stationary dark breathers.

5.3 Numerical continuation of stationary dark breathers

We now use a Newton-type algorithm (Algorithm 2 in [40]) with the initial seed (48) to compute numerically exact stationary dark breather solutions of system (37). Computations are performed with periodic boundary conditions. In what follows we set $\alpha = 3/2$, $\kappa = 1$ and $\delta_0 = 4/9$.

Let $x(t)$, $y(t)$, $\dot{x}(t)$ and $\dot{y}(t)$ denote the row vectors with component $x_n(t)$, $y_n(t)$, $\dot{x}_n(t)$ and $\dot{y}_n(t)$, respectively. Let $Z(t) := (x(t), y(t))$. We seek time-periodic solutions $(Z(t), \dot{Z}(t))$ of the Hamiltonian system (37) for a prescribed period $T_b = 2\pi/\omega_b$. The problem is equivalent to finding the fixed points of the corresponding Poincaré map $P_{T_b}[(Z(0), \dot{Z}(0))] = (Z(T_b), \dot{Z}(T_b))$. We fix $\dot{Z}(0) = 0$ and use the Newton-type algorithm to compute components $Z(0)$ of the fixed points. The reader is referred to [24] for more details on the numerical method.

To characterize the solution, we define the vertical centers of the solution for the x and y components [7],

$$C_x = \frac{\sup_{t \in [0, T_b]} x_1(t) + \inf_{t \in [0, T_b]} x_1(t)}{2}, \quad C_y = \frac{\sup_{t \in [0, T_b]} y_1(t) + \inf_{t \in [0, T_b]} y_1(t)}{2}. \quad (49)$$

The vertical center C_x is set to be approximately zero in our numerical computations (see [24] for more details). We evaluate the dark breather amplitude through

$$K_x = \frac{\sup_{t \in [0, T_b]} x_1(t) - \inf_{t \in [0, T_b]} x_1(t)}{2}, \quad K_y = \frac{\sup_{t \in [0, T_b]} y_1(t) - \inf_{t \in [0, T_b]} y_1(t)}{2} \quad (50)$$

and the (squared) renormalized ℓ^2 norm of $Z(0)$ can be defined as

$$\|Z(0)\|_{\ell^2}^2 = \sum_n K_x^2 - |x_n(0) - C_x|^2 + \sum_n K_y^2 - |y_n(0) - C_y|^2. \quad (51)$$

To evaluate the accuracy of the numerical solution, we also introduce the relative error

$$E_b(t) = \|Z(mT_b) - Z(0)\|_\infty / \|Z(0)\|_\infty, \quad (52)$$

where $m = \lfloor t/T_b \rfloor$ and $Z(mT_b) = (x(mT_b), y(mT_b))$ represents the strain profile after integrating (37) over m multiple of time periods, starting with the initial condition $Z(0)$. Once the Newton-type solver converges to an exact dark breather solution, we use the method of continuation to obtain an entire family of dark breathers that corresponds to different values of ω_b .

To apply the above algorithm we first consider the mass ratio $\rho = 1/3$. In that case the linear frequencies of plane waves at the $\theta = \pi$ edge of optical and acoustic branches are $\omega_{opt} = 2.4495$ and $\omega_{acs} = 1.4142$, respectively. We choose a value of ω_b that is slightly smaller than

but close enough to ω_{opt} or ω_{acs} to obtain a good initial seed with a small amplitude. Sample profiles of both bond-centered and site-centered dark breather solutions with frequency $\omega_b = 2.42$, along with their corresponding initial seeds from the NLS approximation (48) are shown in Fig. 17. The relative errors $E_b(T_b)$ of both solutions are less than 3×10^{-9} .

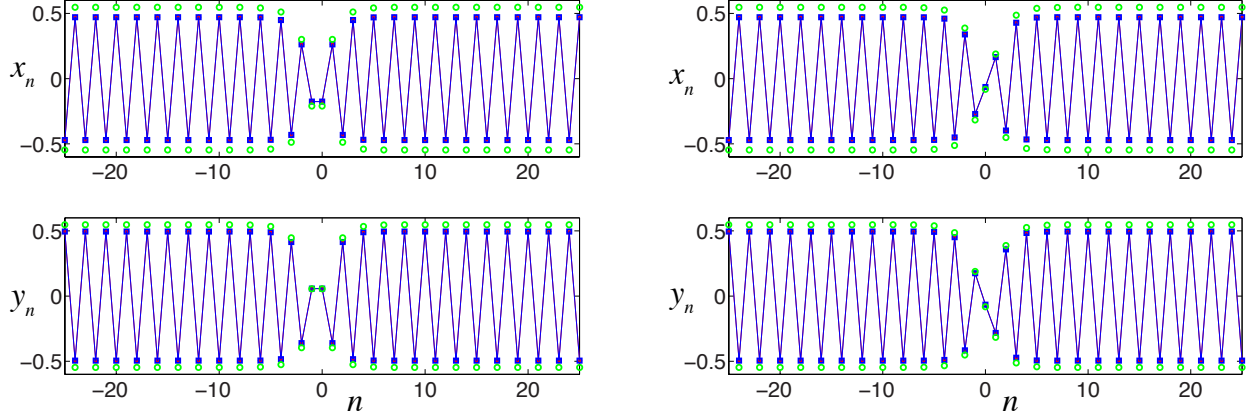


Figure 17: Left plot: a bond-centered dark breather solution (connected stars) with frequency $\omega_b = 2.42$. Squares represent the strain profile after integration over T_b . Circles represent the initial profiles computed from the approximation (48). Right plot: a site-centered solution. Here $\alpha = 3/2$, $\kappa = 1$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$ and $\rho = 1/3$.

In the left plots in Fig. 18, we show the renormalized ℓ^2 norm of the numerically exact bond-centered dark breathers that bifurcate from $\theta = \pi$ edge of the optical branch. The solutions do not exist for arbitrary values of ω_b ; rather, there is a turning point at $\omega_b \approx 2.37$. We are able to continue the relevant solution branch past this turning point, obtaining dark breather solutions making up the top part of the branch, with increasing amplitude as ω_b increases. Therefore, dark breathers above the turning point can be regarded as *strongly nonlinear* solutions, while solutions along the bottom part are *weakly nonlinear*. As explained in the next subsection, solutions along the segments marked by red dots possess real instability, and the ones along the blue segments do not.

Using the same method for $\rho = 1/3$, we obtain qualitatively similar solution branches for acoustic dark breathers bifurcating from $\omega_b = \omega_{acs}$. The bifurcation diagram for bond-centered solutions is shown in the left panel of Fig. 23.

We found the above bifurcations to be robust provided the mass ratio ρ is not too small or too large. For example, increasing mass ratio to $\rho = 1$, the continuation yields a family of dark breathers bifurcating from the optical branch edge $\omega_{opt} = 2.2882$. The bifurcation diagrams of the renormalized ℓ^2 norm of these solutions are shown in Fig. 19 and are similar to the $\rho = 1/3$ case.

The situation is different for large or small mass ratio. For $\rho = 10$, the continuation procedure worked quite well for dark breathers bifurcating from the optical branch but we encountered difficulty doing computations for the acoustic band due to the rapidly growing amplitude of those solutions as ω_b decreases. As a result, only dark breathers with frequencies very close to ω_{acs} were obtained. For the case of a very small mass ratio, $\rho = 0.1$, we found that in contrast to the large mass ratio like $\rho = 10$, we can only obtain dark breathers bifurcating from the acoustic branch and corresponding to a wide range of frequencies.

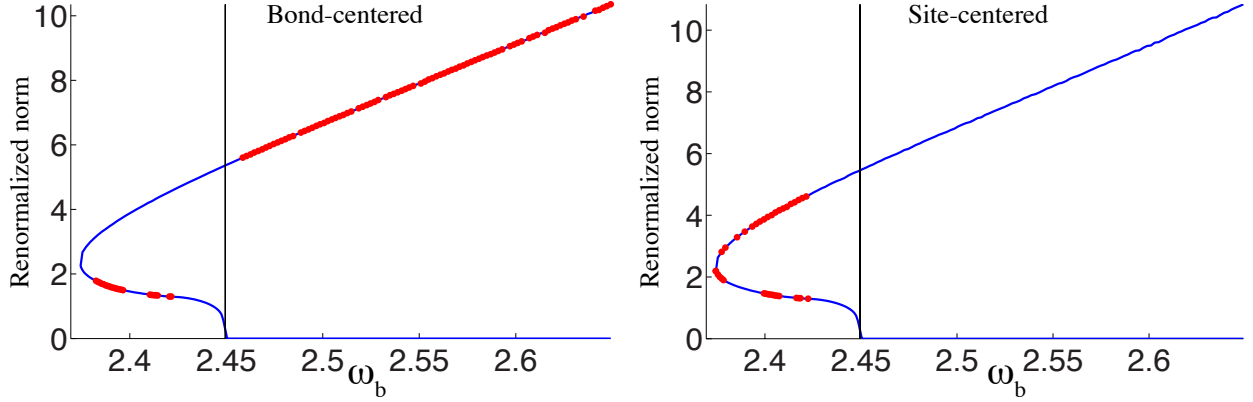


Figure 18: Bifurcation diagram for stationary optical dark breathers in the case $\rho = 1/3$ ($\kappa = 1$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$). Left plot: renormalized ℓ^2 norm of the bond-centered dark breather solution versus frequency ω_b with the vertical center $C_x = 0$. The black vertical line shows the edge of the optical branch $\omega_{opt} = 2.4495$. Right plot: same as the left, but for site-centered solution. Regions where a real instability is present are indicated by red dots.

5.4 Stability analysis for stationary dark breathers

We now examine the linear stability of the obtained dark breather solutions using the standard Floquet analysis, starting with the optical case and fixing $\rho = 1/3$. The eigenvalues (Floquet multipliers) of the associated monodromy matrix of the variational equation of (37) determine the linear stability of the breather solution; see also the relevant discussion e.g. of [7]. The moduli of Floquet multipliers of the site-centered and bond-centered solutions, for both strongly and weakly nonlinear types, are shown in Fig. 20, along with the numerically computed Floquet spectrum corresponding to the sample breather profile at $\omega_b = 2.42$. If any of these Floquet multipliers λ_i satisfies $|\lambda_i| > 1$, the corresponding breather is linearly unstable. We observed two types of instabilities in this Hamiltonian system. The *real* instability takes place when there is a pair of real Floquet multipliers, one of which has magnitude greater than one. The second type is the *oscillatory* instability corresponding to a quartet of Floquet multipliers which do not lie on the unit circle and have nonzero imaginary parts.

Numerical results suggest that both bond-centered and site-centered weakly nonlinear solutions are stable at the beginning of the continuation procedure, as shown in the top panels of Fig. 20, similarly to what was found in the homogeneous granular chain [7]. However, as the corresponding frequency decreases, the amplitude of the breathers increases and they start to exhibit oscillatory instabilities. These marginally unstable modes remain weak until ω_b reaches $\omega_b \approx 2.4255$ in the left plot of Fig. 21.

To further investigate the long-term behavior of dark breather solutions, we examine the relative error $E_b(t)$ defined in (52), with initial condition $Z(0)$ given by the dark breather solution. The relative error $E_b(1200)$ defined in (52) stays below 2×10^{-4} when $2.4255 \leq \omega_b \leq \omega_{opt}$ and increases dramatically at smaller frequencies. A representative space-time evolution diagram of bond-centered dark breather solution at $\omega_b = 2.4255$ is shown in the right plots of Fig. 21, and the time evolution of site-centered solution is similar. This suggests that the dark breathers solutions of both types with frequency close to the linear frequency ω_{opt} are

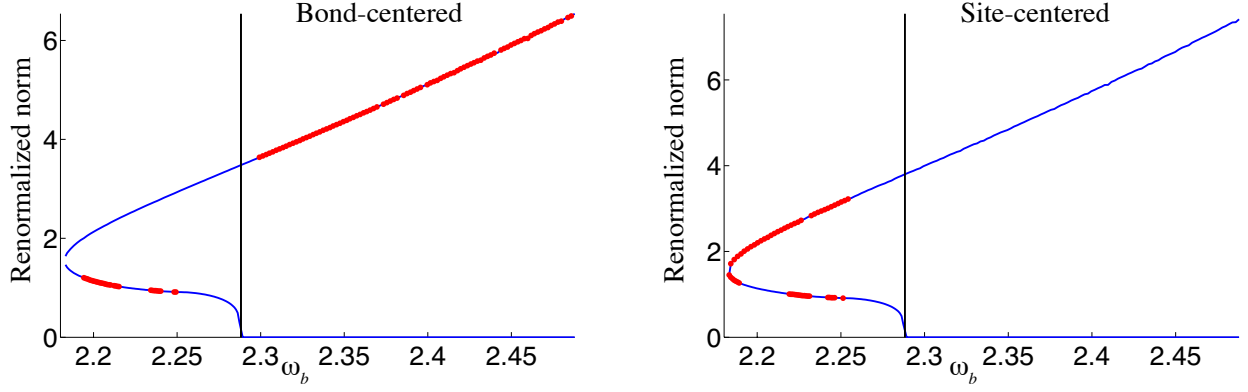


Figure 19: Bifurcation diagram for stationary optical dark breathers in the case $\rho = 1$ ($\kappa = 1$, $\delta_0 = 4/9$). Left plot: renormalized ℓ^2 norm of the bond-centered dark breather solution bifurcating from the optical branch versus frequency ω_b with the vertical center $C_x = 0$. The black vertical line shows the edge of the optical branch $\omega_{opt} = 2.2282$. Right plot: same as the left, but for site-centered solution. Portions of the curve where a real instability is present are indicated by red dots.

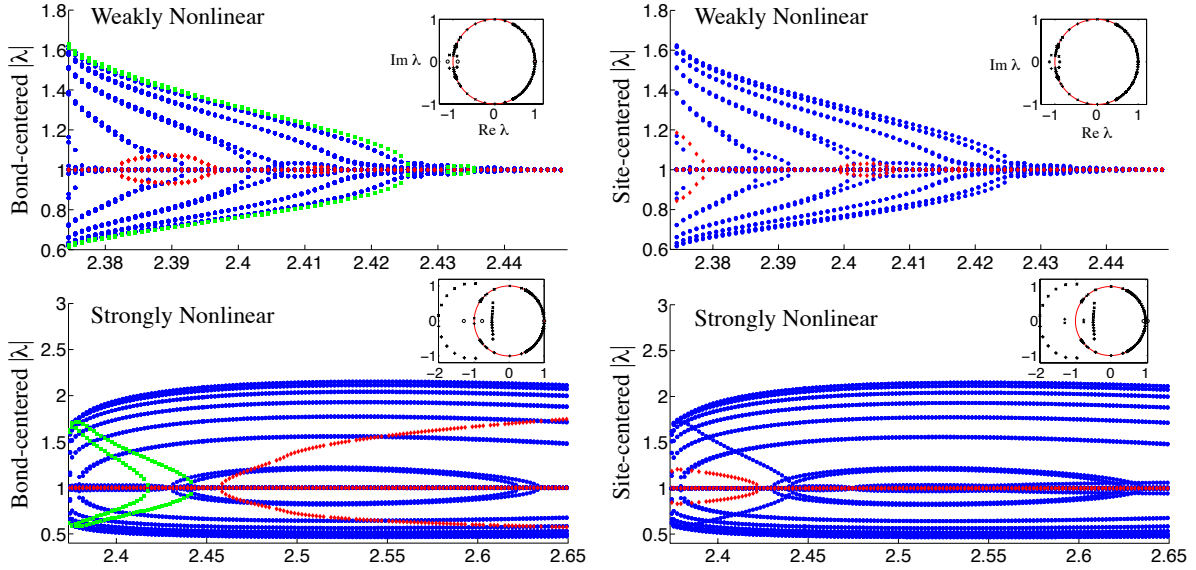


Figure 20: Moduli of the Floquet multipliers versus frequency ω_b for weakly nonlinear (top) and strongly nonlinear (bottom) types of optical dark breathers. Recall that these refer to solutions below and above the turning point in Fig. 18, respectively. Left and right plots correspond to bond- and site-centered dark breathers respectively. Blue dots represent $\text{Im}(\lambda) \neq 0$, red diamonds represent $\text{Im}(\lambda) = 0, \lambda > 0$ and green squares represent $\text{Im}(\lambda) = 0, \lambda < 0$. The Floquet multipliers for $\omega_b = 2.42$ in the complex plane are shown in the respective insets. Here $\kappa = 1$, $\delta = 4/9$ and $\rho = 1/3$.

long-lived and have marginal oscillatory instability.

As ω_b further decreases, we observe the emergence of many new and stronger modes of oscillatory instability, with Floquet multipliers distributed symmetrically outside the unit circle around -1 . In addition, for bond-centered dark breathers, pairs of real Floquet multipliers collide at -1 and move in the opposite directions as ω_b decreases. This is associated with a period-doubling instability. Moduli of these multipliers are indicated by the green squares in Fig. 20 and in the left plot of Fig. 21.

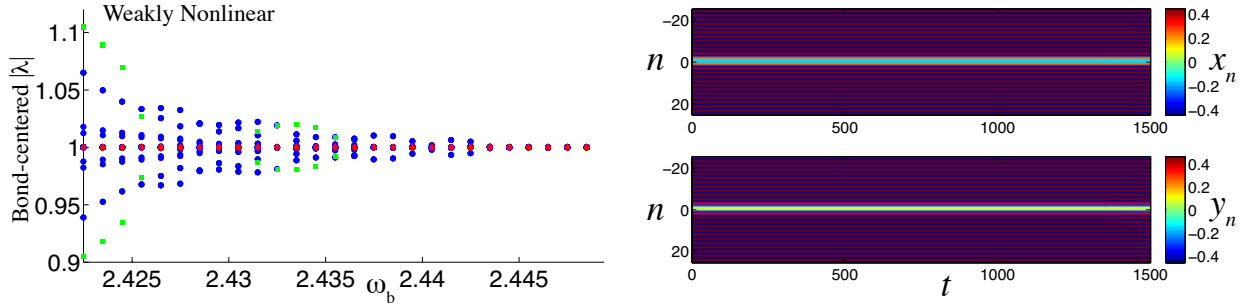


Figure 21: Left plot: moduli of Floquet multipliers of bond-centered dark breathers for frequencies $2.4235 \leq \omega_b \leq \omega_{opt}$. Right plots: contour plot of the time evolution of the bond-centered solution for $\omega_b = 2.4255$. The color bar corresponds to the magnitude of the strain x_n (top) and y_n (bottom). The dark breather appears to be very long-lived despite the instability suggested by the left panel of the figure. Here $\kappa = 1$, $\delta = 4/9$ and $\rho = 1/3$.

The emergence of many unstable quartets suggests that both bond-centered and site-centered solutions have strong modulational instability of the background, which leads to the breakdown of the dark breather structure, accompanied, as shown in Fig. 22, by a chaotic evolution of both solutions after a short time. The same phenomenology (dismantling of the breather and chaotic evolution) also takes place for all strongly nonlinear dark breather solutions. For this reason, in the bifurcation diagram of Fig. 18 only real instabilities are indicated. It is interesting that the strongly nonlinear bond-centered solutions typically exhibit real instability at frequencies greater than ω_{opt} , while the real instability emerges only when ω_b is less than ω_{opt} for the site-centered ones.

We now examine the stability properties of dark breathers that bifurcate from the $\theta = \pi$ edge of the acoustic branch, where the linear frequency is $\omega_{acs} = 1.414$. The bifurcation diagram for solutions of the bond-centered type and the corresponding diagrams of the moduli of the Floquet multipliers versus frequency are shown in Fig. 23. We observe that the distribution of positive real Floquet multipliers in the top right plot (weakly nonlinear dark breathers) follows a pattern similar to the one for such breathers bifurcating from the optical branch (top left plot of Fig. 20). Note also that the large arc for strongly nonlinear solutions in the bottom right plot of Fig. 23 suggests that these dark breathers exhibit not only an oscillatory instability but also a real instability, which possesses a considerably larger growth rate than the oscillatory one.

We now investigate the effect of the mass ratio on the linear stability of solutions. We first consider the mass ratio $\rho = 1$ and keep all other parameters the same as in the previous simulations. We have obtained in Sec. 5.3 a family of dark breathers bifurcating from the

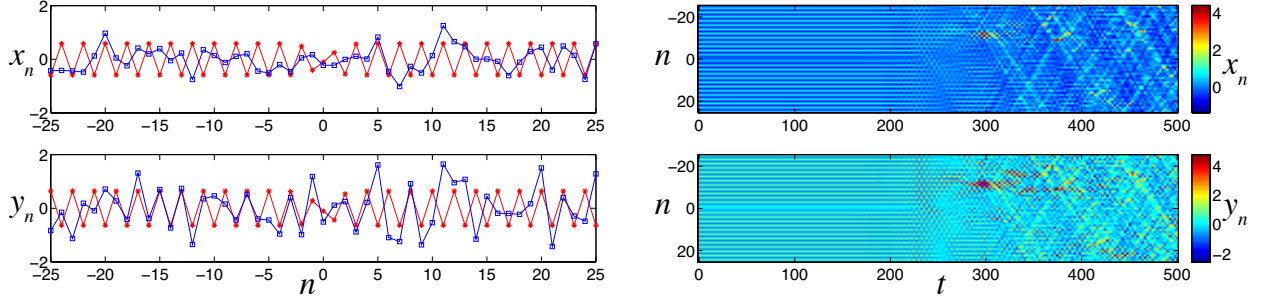


Figure 22: Left plot: snapshots of the strain profile of site-centered optical dark breather solution at time $t = 0$ (connected red stars) and $t = 500$ (connected blue squares). Right plots: contour plot of the time evolution of the site-centered solution for $\omega_b = 2.40$. The color bar corresponds to the magnitude of the strain x_n (top) and y_n (bottom). Here $\kappa = 1$, $\delta = 4/9$ and $\rho = 1/3$. Clearly, the dark breather structure gets destroyed as a result of its spectral instability.

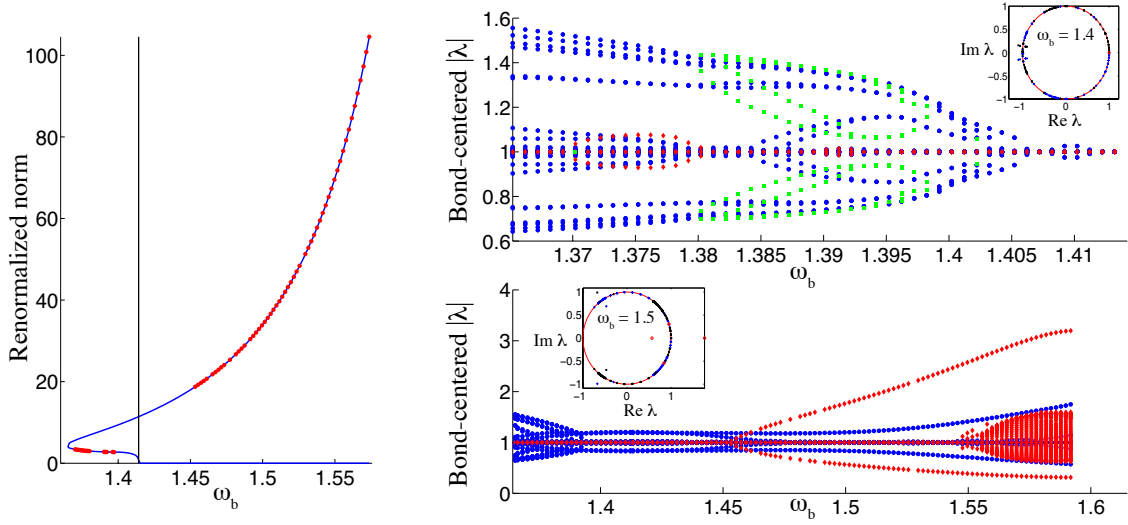


Figure 23: Left panel: renormalized ℓ^2 norm of the bond-centered dark breather bifurcating from the acoustic branch versus ω_b with the vertical center $C_x = 0$. The black vertical line shows the $\theta = \pi$ edge of the acoustic branch $\omega_{acs} = 1.414$. Right panel: moduli of the Floquet multipliers versus frequency ω_b for weakly nonlinear (top) and strongly nonlinear (bottom) types. Insets: the Floquet multipliers in the complex plane. Here $\kappa = 1$, $\delta = 4/9$ and $\rho = 1/3$.

optical branch edge $\omega_{opt} = 2.2882$, with bifurcation diagrams similar to the $\rho = 1/3$ case (see Fig. 19). The moduli of Floquet multipliers of the weakly and strongly nonlinear dark breathers solutions for both bond-centered and site-centered types are shown in Fig. 24. We observe that the magnitude of the Floquet multipliers corresponding to the oscillatory instability is much weaker than in the $\rho = 1/3$ case. In addition, the real instability becomes more significant than the oscillatory one at some frequencies, resulting in not only shorter lifetime of the solutions, but also setting the dark breathers in motion. A representative space-time evolution diagram for weakly nonlinear bond-centered dark breather solution of frequency $\omega_b = 2.207$ is shown in Fig. 25. Note that the positive Floquet multipliers again exhibit the same bifurcation structure as in the previous results.

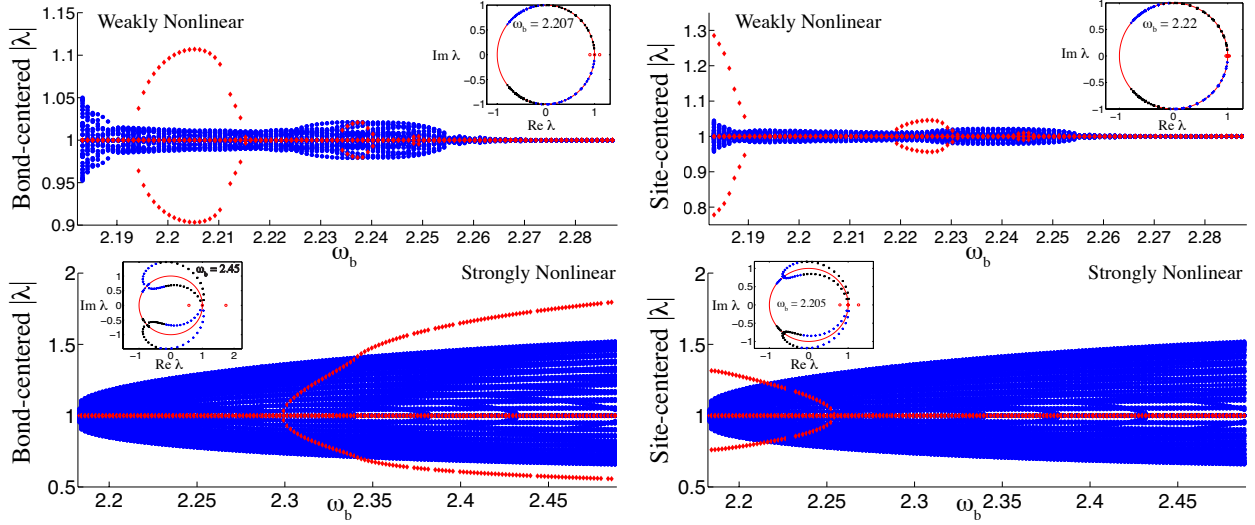


Figure 24: Results of the simulation with the same parameters as in Fig. 20 except for $\rho = 1$. Here the corresponding dark breathers bifurcate from the optical branch.

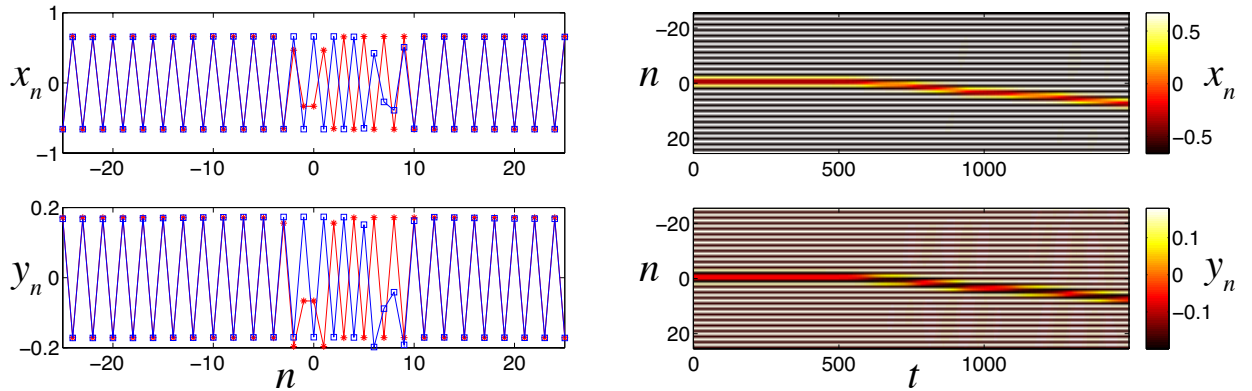


Figure 25: Left panel: sample profiles (connected stars) of bond-centered optical dark breathers at the frequency $\omega_b = 2.207$. Connected squares represent strain profiles after integration over $526 T_b \approx 1500$. Right panel: contour plots of the time evolution of the bond-centered solution for $\omega_b = 2.207$. The color bar corresponds to the magnitude of the strain x_n (top) and y_n (bottom). Clearly, the instability of the stationary dark breather solution sets it into motion. Here $\kappa = 1$, $\delta = 4/9$ and $\rho = 1$.

Considering optical dark breathers for a large mass ratio $\rho = 10$, we have observed that the magnitude of Floquet multipliers corresponding to oscillatory instability is much larger than in the $\rho = 1$ case but smaller than in the $\rho = 1/3$ case, which suggests that the significance of oscillatory instability does not depend monotonically on the mass ratio. Furthermore, in this case, the oscillatory instability appears to set in already in the immediate vicinity of the linear limit at the edge of the optical band.

As indicated in Sec. 5.3, for a very small mass ratio $\rho = 0.1$ we have only obtained acoustic dark breathers for a wide range of frequencies. In that case, it is surprising that the real instability of some of the weakly nonlinear solutions is again more significant than the oscillatory instability, which is also a feature for the optical weakly nonlinear solutions at $\rho = 1$. Again, similar patterns of the distribution of the positive real Floquet multipliers suggest that their bifurcation structure remains unaffected by different mass ratios.

6 Concluding remarks

In this work, we investigated discrete breathers in a precompressed locally resonant granular chain. The precompression effectively suppresses the fully nonlinear character of the Hertzian interactions and leads to a weakly nonlinear system in the small-amplitude limit. Following the approach developed in [7, 10] for two limiting cases of the present model and adopting a multiscale asymptotic technique [31, 36, 37], we derived modulation equations that reduce to the NLS equation at finite mass ratio.

The focusing NLS equation was then used to investigate the moving bright breather solutions of the system at finite mass ratios. We showed numerically that breather solutions of the NLS equation can successfully approximate small-amplitude moving optical bright breathers on a long but finite time scale at some wave numbers and various mass ratios. In addition, we have shown the possibility to excite optical bright breathers by imposing a sinusoidal motion of the first element of the chain.

Contrary to the more standard dimer case [6, 14], the locally resonant granular chain appears to possess bright breathers in the neighborhood of $\theta = 0$ wavenumbers of the optical band. However, that very point is found to be singular, and breathers in its immediate vicinity do not appear to be robust, while bright breathers at larger wave numbers that are below a certain threshold are found to propagate nearly undistorted in the resonator chain at any mass ratio. At some other wave numbers for the optical branch and in the acoustic case, perhaps especially so near the edges of the windows where the focusing model is predicted via the multiscale method, the NLS equation does not capture numerically observed phenomena, including eventual formation and steady motion of smaller breathers that detach from the initial breather and are associated with the other dispersion branch. In particular, robust propagation of nanoptera, bright breathers with small-amplitude tails, was observed in some cases.

In addition, we have found that dark breather solutions can be generated from instabilities of certain periodic traveling waves (close to acoustic modes) in the locally resonant granular chain. In order to analyze dark breather solutions, we used the analytical solutions of the defocusing NLS equation to construct approximate dark breather solutions. Using this approximation as an initial condition for a continuation procedure based on a Newton-type

algorithm, we obtained both weakly and strongly nonlinear stationary dark breathers of both the site-centered and bond-centered families for a wide range of frequencies. We then studied linear stability of the obtained solutions. The results revealed that only small-amplitude weakly nonlinear solutions with frequencies very close to the linear frequencies of the system are stable (for typical values of the resonator mass ρ). In contrast, large-amplitude dark breather solutions exhibit either real or oscillatory instabilities (or both). In particular, the strongly nonlinear dark breathers have a very unstable background, leading to the dismantling of their structure, accompanied by a chaotic evolution after a short time. We also observed long-lived traveling dark breathers, resulting from the perturbation of stationary dark breathers subject to a real instability. Finally, we showed that the mass ratio strongly affects the strength of the oscillatory instability of the dark breather solutions, but its influence on the distribution patterns of positive real Floquet multipliers is less pronounced.

Future theoretical challenges include the rigorous proof of the existence of long-lived or exact bright and dark breathers in the case of stationary or propagating solutions, the analysis of their stability, and the comparison with the numerical results presented here. A numerical study of the stability of periodic traveling and standing waves going beyond the NLS approximation will be also of interest, in order to classify the parameter regimes leading to modulated periodic waves, localized structures or disordered regimes. Along this line, the mechanism of the excitation of traveling dark breathers from unstable periodic waves illustrated in Sec. 5.1 still needs to be explained.

On the experimental side, it will be interesting to investigate whether it is possible to generate either (approximate) moving bright breathers, perhaps actuating one boundary at a suitable, near-band-edge frequency, or stationary dark breathers in a slightly damped finite locally resonant chain driven at the ends in a way similar to [7, 8] but using the woodpile setup [18]. In addition, as we observed in Sec. 3.1, the number of focusing regions within the optical and acoustic bands can change when the main parameters, the mass ratio ρ and precompression δ_0 , are varied. This opens up the possibility to change the system's response to external perturbations by varying precompression, which constitutes a very interesting property for the design of adaptive metamaterials.

Acknowledgements. G.J. acknowledges financial support from the Rhône-Alpes Complex Systems Institute (IXXI). The work of L.L. and A.V. was partially supported by the US NSF grants DMS-1007908 and DMS-1506904. P.G.K. gratefully acknowledges the support of US AFOSR through grant FA9550-12-1-0332. P.G.K.'s work at Los Alamos was supported in part by the US Department of Energy. P.G.K. also acknowledges support from the ARO (W911NF-15-1-0604).

A Appendix: Derivation of the modulation equations

In this appendix, we show the details of the derivation of the modulation equations (14) and (15). In what follows, we will use the abbreviation $\sum_{k,j}$ for the summation over $k \in \mathbb{N}_1$ and $j \in \mathbb{Z}$, $|j| \leq k$ in (13). The ansatz defined in (13) will be denoted by $U_n^A = u_n$ and $V_n^B = v_n$. After substituting (13) into (2), we find that the right hand side of the second equation in

(2) reads

$$-\frac{\kappa}{\rho} \sum_{k,j} \varepsilon^k [B_{k,j}(\tau, \xi) - A_{k,j}(\tau, \xi)] E(t, n)^j, \quad (53)$$

and its left hand side is

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{V}_n^B(t) &:= \sum_{k,j} \varepsilon^k [-(j\omega)^2 B_{k,j} + 2\varepsilon i j \omega c \partial_\xi B_{k,j} + \varepsilon^2 (c^2 \partial_\xi^2 B_{k,j} - 2i j \omega \partial_\tau B_{k,j}) \\ &\quad - 2\varepsilon^3 c \partial_\xi \partial_\tau B_{k,j} + \varepsilon^4 \partial_\tau^2 B_{k,j}] E^j(t, n). \end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

To match the coefficients of each $\varepsilon^k E^j(\tau, \xi)$ term on both sides, we require that

$$\varepsilon^1 E^0 : \quad 0 = -\frac{\kappa}{\rho} (B_{1,0} - A_{1,0}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad B_{1,0} = A_{1,0}, \quad (55)$$

$$\varepsilon^1 E^1 : \quad -\omega^2 B_{1,1} = -\frac{\kappa}{\rho} (B_{1,1} - A_{1,1}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\kappa - \rho \omega^2) B_{1,1} = \kappa A_{1,1}, \quad (56)$$

$$\varepsilon^2 E^1 : \quad -\omega^2 B_{2,1} + 2i\omega c \partial_\xi B_{1,1} = -\frac{\kappa}{\rho} (B_{2,1} - A_{2,1}), \quad (57)$$

$$\varepsilon^2 E^2 : \quad -4\omega^2 B_{2,2} = -\frac{\kappa}{\rho} (B_{2,2} - A_{2,2}), \quad (58)$$

$$\varepsilon^3 E^0 : \quad c^2 \partial_\xi^2 B_{1,0} = -\frac{\kappa}{\rho} (B_{3,0} - A_{3,0}), \quad (59)$$

$$\varepsilon^3 E^1 : \quad -\omega^2 B_{3,1} + 2i\omega c \partial_\xi B_{2,1} + c^2 \partial_\xi^2 B_{1,1} - 2i\omega \partial_\tau B_{1,1} = -\frac{\kappa}{\rho} (B_{3,1} - A_{3,1}). \quad (60)$$

Meanwhile, the right hand side of the first equation of (2) can be treated as a sum of linear part $L_n(U^A, V^B)$ and nonlinear part $N_n(U^A)$, where we define

$$\begin{aligned} L_n(U^A, V^B) &:= \sum_{k,j} \varepsilon^k \{ [2K_2(\cos j\theta - 1) - \kappa] A_{k,j} + \kappa B_{k,j} + 2iK_2 \varepsilon \partial_\xi A_{k,j} \sin j\theta \\ &\quad + K_2 \varepsilon^2 \partial_\xi^2 A_{k,j} \cos j\theta + O(\varepsilon^3) \} E^j \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} N_n(U^A) &:= -\varepsilon^2 (K_3 s D_1 A_{1,1}^2 E^2 + c.c.) \\ &\quad + \varepsilon^3 \{ 2K_3 D_1 \bar{A}_{1,1} \partial_\xi A_{1,1} + (2K_3 s D_1 \bar{A}_{1,1} A_{2,2} - 3K_4 D_1^2 |A_{1,1}|^2 A_{1,1} - 2K_3 D_1 \partial_\xi A_{1,0} A_{1,1}) E \\ &\quad + [2K_3 D_1 (D_1 - 3) A_{1,1} \partial_\xi A_{1,1} - 2K_3 s D_1 A_{1,1} A_{2,1}] E^2 \\ &\quad + [2K_3 s (D_1 + s^2) A_{1,1} A_{2,2} + K_4 D_1^2 (3 - D_1) A_{1,1}^3] E^3 + c.c. \} + h.o.t., \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

with the abbreviation h.o.t. meaning higher order terms. Here $s = 2i \sin \theta$ and $D_1 = 4 \sin^2(\theta/2)$. The left hand side of the first equation of (2) reads

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{U}_n^A(t) &:= \sum_{k,j} \varepsilon^k [-(j\omega)^2 A_{k,j} + 2\varepsilon i j \omega c \partial_\xi A_{k,j} + \varepsilon^2 (c^2 \partial_\xi^2 A_{k,j} - 2i j \omega \partial_\tau A_{k,j}) \\ &\quad - 2\varepsilon^3 c \partial_\xi \partial_\tau A_{k,j} + \varepsilon^4 \partial_\tau^2 A_{k,j}] E^j(t, n). \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

To match the coefficients of each $\varepsilon^k E^j(\tau, \xi)$ term on both sides, one needs

$$\varepsilon^1 E^0 : 0 = -\kappa A_{1,0} + \kappa B_{1,0} \Rightarrow A_{1,0} = B_{1,0}, \quad (64)$$

$$\varepsilon^1 E^1 : -\omega^2 A_{1,1} = (-D - \kappa) A_{1,1} + \kappa B_{1,1}, \quad (65)$$

$$\varepsilon^2 E^1 : -\omega^2 A_{2,1} + 2i\omega c \partial_\xi A_{1,1} = (-D - \kappa) A_{2,1} + \kappa B_{2,1} + 2iK_2 \partial_\xi A_{1,1} \sin \theta, \quad (66)$$

$$\varepsilon^2 E^2 : -4\omega^2 A_{2,2} = (-4K_2 \sin^2 \theta - \kappa) A_{2,2} + \kappa B_{2,2} - K_3 s D_1 A_{1,1}^2, \quad (67)$$

$$\varepsilon^3 E^0 : c^2 \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,0} = -\kappa A_{3,0} + \kappa B_{3,0} + K_2 \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,0} + 2K_3 D_1 \bar{A}_{1,1} \partial_\xi A_{1,1} + c.c., \quad (68)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^3 E^1 : -\omega^2 A_{3,1} + 2i\omega c \partial_\xi A_{2,1} + c^2 \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} - 2i\omega \partial_\tau A_{1,1} = & (-D - \kappa) A_{3,1} + \kappa B_{3,1} \\ & + 2iK_2 \partial_\xi A_{2,1} \sin \theta + K_2 \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} \cos \theta + 2K_3 s D_1 \bar{A}_{1,1} A_{2,2} - 3K_4 D_1^2 |A_{1,1}|^2 A_{1,1} - 2K_3 D_1 \partial_\xi A_{1,0} A_{1,1}. \end{aligned} \quad (69)$$

Note that both (55) and (64) yield $A_{1,0} = B_{1,0}$ but the two coefficients are not zero, in contrast with the non-resonant homogeneous chain problem ($\rho = 0$). We now derive an equation to determine them. Using (59) and (68), we obtain

$$[c^2(1 + \rho) - K_2] \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,0} = 2K_3 D_1 \bar{A}_{1,1} \partial_\xi A_{1,1} + c.c., \quad (70)$$

where we assume the non-resonance condition (18).

Now combining (56) and (65) yields $\mathbf{M}(A_{1,1}, B_{1,1})^T = 0$, where the matrix \mathbf{M} is given by (6). This yields that $(A_{1,1}, B_{1,1})^T$ is an eigenvector of \mathbf{M} corresponding to zero eigenvalue and $A_{1,1}$ and $B_{1,1}$ are thus connected by

$$B_{1,1} = \frac{\kappa}{\kappa - \rho\omega^2} A_{1,1}. \quad (71)$$

Note that $\kappa - \rho\omega^2 \neq 0$, since one can check that $\omega_-^2(\theta) \leq \omega_-^2(\pi) < \kappa/\rho$ and $\omega_+^2(\theta) \geq \omega_+^2(0) > \kappa/\rho$. In addition, (57), (66) and (71) yield

$$\mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} A_{2,1} \\ B_{2,1} \end{pmatrix} = 2i\partial_\xi A_{1,1} W,$$

with

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \omega c - K_2 \sin \theta \\ \omega c \kappa / (\kappa - \rho\omega^2) \end{pmatrix} \quad (72)$$

and the matrix \mathbf{M} defined in (6). The range of \mathbf{M} being orthogonal to

$$W^* = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \rho\omega^2/\kappa \\ \rho \end{pmatrix},$$

we further obtain the compatibility condition $W^* \cdot W = 0$, which reads

$$\frac{\rho\kappa}{\rho\omega^2 - \kappa} = \frac{\omega c - K_2 \sin \theta}{\omega c} \frac{\kappa - \rho\omega^2}{\kappa}. \quad (73)$$

This yields

$$c = \frac{K_2 \sin \theta (\kappa - \rho\omega^2)^2}{\omega [\rho\kappa^2 + (\kappa - \rho\omega^2)^2]}, \quad (74)$$

and one can check that $c = \omega'(\theta)$ by differentiating the dispersion equation $\det \mathbf{M} = 0$, or

$$\omega^4 - (D + \kappa + \kappa/\rho)\omega^2 + D\kappa/\rho = 0 \quad (75)$$

with respect to θ .

Consider now the equations (58) and (67) for $\varepsilon^2 E^2$, which yield

$$B_{2,2} = \frac{\kappa}{\kappa - 4\rho\omega^2} A_{2,2}, \quad (76)$$

$$A_{2,2} = \frac{K_3 s D_1 (\kappa - 4\omega^2 \rho)}{(4\omega^2 - 4K_2 \sin^2 \theta - \kappa)(\kappa - 4\omega^2 \rho) + \kappa^2} A_{1,1}^2. \quad (77)$$

This solution exists under the non-resonance condition (17), which is equivalent to $\omega(2\theta) \pm 2\omega(\theta) \neq 0$, as can be easily verified by substituting $\omega \rightarrow \pm 2\omega$ and $\theta \rightarrow 2\theta$ in (75).

In the same manner, (57), (60) and (69) yield the following linear system:

$$\mathbf{M} \begin{pmatrix} A_{3,1} \\ B_{3,1} \end{pmatrix} = 2i\partial_\xi A_{2,1} W + \begin{pmatrix} (c^2 - K_2 \cos \theta) \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} \\ c^2(3\rho\omega^2 + \kappa)/(\kappa - \rho\omega^2) \partial_\xi^2 B_{1,1} \end{pmatrix} - 2i\omega \begin{pmatrix} \partial_\tau A_{1,1} \\ \partial_\tau B_{1,1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -2K_3 s D_1 \bar{A}_{1,1} A_{2,2} + 3K_4 D_1^2 |A_{1,1}|^2 A_{1,1} + 2K_3 D_1 \partial_\xi A_{1,0} A_{1,1} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In order for the right hand side to lie in range $\mathbf{M} = (W^*)^\perp$, and in view of (73), the following compatibility condition must be satisfied

$$(c^2 - K_2 \cos \theta) \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} - 2i\omega \partial_\tau A_{1,1} - 2K_3 s D_1 \bar{A}_{1,1} A_{2,2} + 3K_4 D_1^2 |A_{1,1}|^2 A_{1,1} + 2K_3 D_1 \partial_\xi A_{1,0} A_{1,1} = \frac{\rho\kappa}{\rho\omega^2 - \kappa} \left\{ \frac{c^2(3\rho\omega^2 + \kappa)}{(\kappa - \rho\omega^2)} \partial_\xi^2 B_{1,1} - 2i\omega \partial_\tau B_{1,1} \right\}.$$

Using (71), (77) and substituting $B_{1,1}$ and $A_{2,2}$ into the above identity yields the following modulation equation in terms of $A_{1,1}$ and $A_{1,0}$:

$$\begin{aligned} -2i\omega \frac{\rho\kappa^2 + (\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^2}{(\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^2} \partial_\tau A_{1,1} &= \left\{ K_2 \cos \theta - c^2 \left[1 - \frac{3\omega^2 \rho^2 \kappa^2 + \rho\kappa^3}{(\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^3} \right] \right\} \partial_\xi^2 A_{1,1} \\ + \left\{ \frac{2K_3^2 s^2 D_1^2 (\kappa - 4\omega^2 \rho)}{(4\omega^2 + K_2 s^2 - \kappa)(\kappa - 4\omega^2 \rho) + \kappa^2} - 3K_4 D_1^2 \right\} |A_{1,1}|^2 A_{1,1} &- 2K_3 D_1 \partial_\xi A_{1,0} A_{1,1}, \end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

which is coupled to (70). Introducing

$$\gamma = \frac{(\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^2}{\omega[\rho\kappa^2 + (\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^2]},$$

one can show that the curvature is given by

$$\omega'' = \left\{ K_2 \cos \theta - c^2 \left[1 - \frac{3\omega^2 \rho^2 \kappa^2 + \rho\kappa^3}{(\rho\omega^2 - \kappa)^3} \right] \right\} \gamma. \quad (79)$$

This completes the derivation of the coupled modulation equations (14) and (15).

References

- [1] V. F. Nesterenko. *Dynamics of Heterogeneous Materials*. Springer, New York, 2001.
- [2] S. Sen, J. Hong, J. Bang, E. Avalos, and R. Doney. Solitary waves in the granular chain. *Phys. Rep.*, 462(2):21–66, 2008.
- [3] C. Coste, E. Falcon, and S. Fauve. Solitary waves in a chain of beads under Hertz contact. *Phys. Rev. E*, 56(5):6104–6117, 1997.
- [4] E. B. Herbold and V. F. Nesterenko. Shock wave structure in a strongly nonlinear lattice with viscous dissipation. *Phys. Rev. E*, 75:021304, 2007.
- [5] A. Molinari and C. Daraio. Stationary shocks in periodic highly nonlinear granular chains. *Phys. Rev. E*, 80:056602, 2009.
- [6] N. Boechler, G. Theocharis, S. Job, P. G. Kevrekidis, Mason A. Porter, and C. Daraio. Discrete breathers in one-dimensional diatomic granular crystals. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 104:244302, 2010.
- [7] C. Chong, P. G. Kevrekidis, G. Theocharis, and C. Daraio. Dark breathers in granular crystals. *Phys. Rev. E*, 87:042202, 2013.
- [8] C. Chong, F. Li, J. Yang, M. O. Williams, I. G. Kevrekidis, P. G. Kevrekidis, and C. Daraio. Damped-driven granular chains: An ideal playground for dark breathers and multibreathers. *Phys. Rev. E*, 89:032924, 2014.
- [9] G. James. Nonlinear waves in Newton’s cradle and the discrete p-Schrödinger equation. *Math. Mod. Meth. Appl. Sci.*, 21(11):2335–2377, 2011.
- [10] G. James, P. G. Kevrekidis, and J. Cuevas. Breathers in oscillator chains with Hertzian interactions. *Phys. D*, 251:39–59, 2013.
- [11] S. Job, F. Santibanez, F. Tapia, and F. Melo. Wave localization in strongly nonlinear Hertzian chains with mass defect. *Phys. Rev. E*, 80:025602, 2009.
- [12] G. Hoogeboom and P. G. Kevrekidis. Breathers in periodic granular chain with multiple band gaps. *Phys. Rev. E*, 86:061305, 2012.
- [13] G. Theocharis, M. Kavousanakis, P. G. Kevrekidis, C. Daraio, M. A. Porter, and I. G. Kevrekidis. Localized breathing modes in granular crystals with defects. *Phys. Rev. E*, 80:066601, 2009.
- [14] G. Theocharis, N. Boechler, S. Job, P. G. Kevrekidis, M. A. Porter, and C. Daraio. Intrinsic energy localization through discrete gap breathers in one-dimensional diatomic granular crystal. *Phys. Rev. E*, 82:056604, 2010.
- [15] S. Aubry. Breathers in nonlinear lattices: Existence, linear stability and quantization. *Phys. D*, 103(14):201–250, 1997.

- [16] S. Flach and A. Gorbach. Discrete breathers: advances in theory and applications. *Phys. Rep.*, 467:1–116, 2008.
- [17] M. A. Hasan, S. Cho, K. Remick, A. F. Vakakis, D. M. McFarland, and W. M. Kriven. Experimental study of nonlinear acoustic bands and propagating breathers in ordered granular media embedded in matrix. *Granul. Matter*, 17:49–72, 2015.
- [18] E. Kim, F. Li, C. Chong, G. Theocharis, J. Yang, and P.G. Kevrekidis. Highly nonlinear wave propagation in elastic woodpile periodic structures. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 114:118002, 2015.
- [19] H. Xu, P. G. Kevrekidis, and A. Stefanov. Traveling waves and their tails in locally resonant granular systems. *J. Phys. A*, 48:195204, 2015.
- [20] L. Bonanomi, G. Theocharis, and C. Daraio. Wave propagation in granular chains with local resonances. *Phys. Rev. E*, 91:033208, 2015.
- [21] G. Gantzounis, M. Serra-Garcia, K. Homma, J. M. Mendoza, and C. Daraio. Granular metamaterials for vibration mitigation. *J. Appl. Phys.*, 114:093514, 2013.
- [22] P. G. Kevrekidis, A. Vainchtein, M. Serra Garcia, and C. Daraio. Interaction of traveling waves with mass-with-mass defects within a Hertzian chain. *Phys. Rev. E*, 87:042911, 2013.
- [23] E. Kim and J. Yang. Wave propagation in single column woodpile phononic crystal: Formation of turnable band gaps. *J. Mech. Phys. Solids*, 71:33–45, 2014.
- [24] L. Liu, G. James, P.G. Kevrekidis, and A. Vainchtein. Nonlinear waves in a strongly nonlinear resonant granular chain. *arXiv:1506.02827 [nlin.PS]*, 2015.
- [25] E. Fermi, J. Pasta, and S. Ulam. Studies of nonlinear problems. Technical report, I, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory Report No. LA-1940, 1955.
- [26] G. Friesecke and J. A. D. Wattis. Existence theorem for solitary waves on lattices. *Comm. Math. Phys.*, 161(2):391–418, 1994.
- [27] G. Friesecke and R. L. Pego. Solitary waves on FPU lattices: I. Qualitative properties, renormalization and continuum limit. *Nonlinearity*, 12:1601–1626, 1999.
- [28] G. Friesecke and R. L. Pego. Solitary waves on FPU lattices: II. Linear implies nonlinear stability. *Nonlinearity*, 15(4):1343–1359, 2002.
- [29] G. Iooss. Travelling waves in the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam lattice. *Nonlinearity*, 13(3):849, 2000.
- [30] G. Iooss and G. James. Localized waves in nonlinear oscillator chains. *Chaos*, 15(015113), 2005.
- [31] G. Schneider. Bounds for the nonlinear Schrödinger approximation of the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam system. *Appl. Anal.*, 89(9):1523–1539, 2010.

- [32] G. James. Existence of breathers on FPU lattices. *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences-Series I-Mathematics*, 332(6):581–586, 2001.
- [33] G. James. Centre manifold reduction for quasilinear discrete systems. *J. Nonlin. Sci.*, 13(1):27–63, 2003.
- [34] G. Friesecke and R. L. Pego. Solitary waves on Fermi-Pasta-Ulam lattices: IV. Proof of stability at low energy. *Nonlinearity*, 17(1):229–251, 2004.
- [35] P. G. Kevrekidis. Non-linear waves in lattices: past, present, future. *IMA J. Appl. Math.*, 76(3):1–35, 2011.
- [36] J. Giannoulis and A. Mielke. The nonlinear Schrödinger equation as a macroscopic limit for an oscillator chain with cubic nonlinearities. *Nonlinearity*, 17:551–565, 2004.
- [37] J. Giannoulis and A. Mielke. Dispersive evolution of pulses in oscillator chains with general interaction potentials. *Discr. Cont. Dyn. Syst. B*, 6(3):493–523, 2006.
- [38] A. R. Osborne. *Nonlinear Ocean Waves and the Inverse Scattering Transform*, volume 97 of *International Geophysics Series*. Academic Press, Burlington, 2010.
- [39] G. Hwang, T.R. Akylas, and J. Yang. Gap solitons and their linear stability in one-dimensional periodic media. *Physica D*, 240:1055–1068, 2011.
- [40] T. Cretegny and S. Aubry. Spatially inhomogeneous time-periodic propagating waves in anharmonic systems. *Phys. Rev. B*, 55(18):929–932, 1997.